

Israel gets advanced U.S. planes

TEL AVIV (R) — The Israeli air force on Monday received the first of 75 advanced F-16C warplanes from the United States, making Israel the only U.S. ally equipped with the new fighter-bomber. The F-16C is an improved version of the F-16 that has been in Israel's arsenal since 1980, but has a more powerful engine, better avionics and is able to carry a heavier load of bombs and missiles, military experts said. Three F-16Cs, flown by American pilots, landed at an air base in northern Israel after a flight from Texas. The plane is manufactured by General Dynamics and its engine is made by General Electric. Israeli military censors would not allow reporters to name the base or give its exact location.

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King visits Royal War College

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein, the supreme commander of the Jordanian Armed Forces, accompanied by Armed Forces Commander-in-Chief General Sharif Zaid Ibn Shaker on Monday, visited the Royal War College. The King was received upon arrival by the assistant chief of staff and the academy's commander and senior staff. His Majesty was briefed on the academy's tasks and duties. The King later met with the academy's students. Later on Monday, the King visited Field Marshal Abdul Rahman Swareddeh, former head of the military council in Sudan, who is now undergoing medical check-ups at the King Hussein Medical Centre, and inquired after his health. The King later visited the tomb of the late Queen Alia.

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PSD to amend service rule

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Public Security Department (PSD) intends to cancel a special regulation currently in force which stipulates that any one joining the PSD should serve for a minimum number of years before he can leave the service, PSD sources said Monday. The sources added that 80 policemen would be terminated from service because they were unwilling to serve any more in the department after having served the specified terms.

Temperature drop expected

AMMAN (J.T.) — Jordan was affected on Monday by a depression, which was centred over the southeastern part of Cyprus and accompanied by a cold air mass which crossed the country and caused heavy rainfall in most parts of the Kingdom, the meteorology department said. The depression currently affecting the area will move eastwards and its effect on the country will be decreasing gradually, while the effect of the cold air mass will continue today and will result in a drop in temperatures, in addition to rainfall at times, accompanied sometimes by thunderstorm, the department said.

Arab proposed as Israeli diplomat

TEL AVIV (R) — An Israeli Arab is a candidate for a post of consul-general in the United States, the first time a member of Israel's Arab minority has been in the running for a diplomatic post, foreign ministry sources said Monday. The sources said they decided to name, was one of several proposed to represent Israel in Atlanta, Georgia. Israel Radio identified him as Mohammad Masawa, a lawyer and member of the Labour Party with no diplomatic experience.

Goukouni in Algiers

ALGIERS (AP) — Former Chadian rebel leader Goukouni Oueddei, whose followers have been battling Libyan forces in northern Chad along with government troops (see page 2), has arrived unannounced in the Algerian capital, sources at the Chadian embassy reported Monday. Mr. Goukouni, who had been reported under house arrest in Tripoli since last fall after a shootout with Libyan soldiers, arrived unannounced Sunday in Algiers, Chadian embassy sources in the Algerian capital said. His whereabouts was unknown and his presence was ignored by the Algerian media.

McFarlane hospitalised

WASHINGTON (R) — Robert McFarlane, a key figure in the Iran arms scandal, has been admitted to hospital due to a reaction to medication he was taking, a spokesman for the former White House national security adviser said Monday. "It was an adverse reaction to prescribed medication and he's going to be fine," the spokesman said. Mr. McFarlane was admitted to Bethesda Naval Hospital in suburban Maryland Monday morning and was being held for observation, according to the spokesman, who declined to provide more specifics.

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U.S. hostages issue 'last-minute' appeal

BEIRUT (Agencies) — Three American hostages in Lebanon said Monday they were expected to be killed at midnight Monday (2200 GMT) unless last-minute pressure persuaded Israel to free 400 Palestinian prisoners.

"The Islamic Jihad for the Liberation of Palestine will execute us at midnight because Israel is refusing to release 400 Palestinians from its cells," said a handwritten letter in English signed by the three Americans.

The letter, delivered to an international news agency in Beirut, was not signed by the fourth hostage held by the group, Indian Mithleshwar Singh.

In Tel Aviv, Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres said earlier his government was taking no action on the demand. "Nobody has approached Israel and Israel will not take any initiative on that issue," he told reporters.

Islamic Jihad for the Liberation of Palestine had said it will kill the four — Alann Steen, Robert Polhill, Jesse Turner and Mr. Singh — unless Israel frees the 400 Palestinians.

Monday's three-page statement, accompanied by a coloured photograph of Mr. Steen, said: "This is the last letter to our wives and the American people."

"We urge you all to push our government to order Israel to guarantee the release of 400 Palestinian Mujahideen before midnight," it said.

"Once again we announce that

we will be executed at midnight. Until then, if you do love us and your hearts beat for us, put pressure on Israel to show good will."

It added: "Let Israel promise the organisation plainly and officially that 400 Palestinian Mujahideen will be free. Otherwise, we won't be alive after midnight, the farewell hour."

Mr. Peres said Israel did not even know which 400 prisoners the kidnappers wanted released. Israeli officials said the United States had put no pressure on Israel to make concessions to gain the release of the hostages, abducted from a west Beirut college on Jan. 24.

Mr. Peres also cast doubt on an offer by the leader of Lebanon's Shi'ite Muslim movement Amal, Nabih Berri, to include an Israeli airman captured last October in a prisoner and hostage swap.

"When one reads carefully the message of Nabih Berri, (one) can immediately see the complications in it," he said.

An air of tense expectation gripped Beirut as the countdown began for the midnight deadline set by the kidnappers.

Radio stations reported that the bullet-riddled bodies of two unidentified men were found in a

west Beirut street Monday. But police said later both were Palestinians.

Five more U.S. warships from the large American flotilla assembled off the Lebanese coast docked Monday at the northern Israeli port of Haifa, 100 kilometres south of Beirut, for repairs and resupply, port officials said.

Two destroyers, two frigates and a guided missile cruiser joined the aircraft carrier John F. Kennedy, anchored in Haifa bay since Friday, and the Savannah, an ammunition supply ship which arrived on Saturday.

The United States has all but ruled out a military operation to try to rescue the hostages but has not excluded the possibility of reprisal raids if the captives are killed.

In Washington, the White House, faced by the deadline set by the kidnappers, said again Monday that U.S. policy was not to pay ransom for hostages and not to encourage others to do so.

Presidential spokesman Martin Fitzwater also said the U.S. government had not talked to Israel about the hostage situation.

Fitzwater told reporters he had no new information about the hostage situation or about Church of England envoy Terry Waite, who has vanished in Beirut while seeking to negotiate the release of hostages (see page 2).

Fitzwater said: "We will not pay ransom for hostages. We will not encourage others to do so."

Jalloud vows to end 'camps war'

DAMASCUS (R) — Libya's second-in-command, Major Abdul Salam Jalloud, said Monday he would spare no efforts to end the fighting between Palestinians and the Shi'ite Amal militia around refugee camps in Lebanon.

He described the four-month-long war as "a fire which eats up all of us" and called on Shi'ite and Sunni Muslims to help to lift Amal's siege of the camps.

"The sky does not rain solutions... solutions are in our own hands," Maj. Jalloud told a news conference in Damascus where he has been for almost 10 weeks trying to mediate to halt the battles.

"We Palestinians, Lebanese, Syrians and Libyans, in cooperation with the Iranians, are resolved to impose a final solution to the camps issue." He did not elaborate.

Amal leader Nabih Berri says the militia will lift its blockade of five camps in Lebanon only after Palestinians withdraw completely from positions they captured from Amal east of the southern Lebanese city of Sidon.

Maj. Jalloud said Palestinian fighters had already pulled out from these positions and called on Amal to lift the siege.

He also urged all Muslims in Lebanon to "storm the camps, carrying food and medicine as starvation and diseases are destroying Palestinians..."

Four people were killed and 12 wounded in mortar and rocket duels as the "camps war" continued Monday.

PLO gunners, deployed in the eastern mountain range overlooking Beirut, pounded Amal strongholds in the Shi'ite slums surrounding Shatila and Bourj Al Barajneh to ease the pressure by Amal forces on the two shantytowns, police said.

PLO communiques said the 35,000 refugees in Bourj Al Barajneh were suffering from "acute shortages in food, drinking water and medical supplies."

The camp's clergyman, Sheikh Khalil Sharqiye, appealed to "all Muslim scholars" for a *fatwa*, or religious ruling, allowing Bourj Al Barajneh's population to eat human flesh to survive the Amal-imposed blockade, a PLO spokesman said.

Israelis shoot and wound 7 Arabs in W. Bank

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — Israeli soldiers shot and wounded seven Palestinian demonstrators on Monday in the most serious outbreak of violence in the occupied West Bank this year.

An Israeli military spokesman said four of the wounded, an Arab boy and girl, both aged 13, a 15-year-old youth and a man, 22, were shot in Balata refugee camp, near the city of Nablus, during an anti-Israeli protest.

Hours later, three Palestinian students were wounded by Israeli gunfire at Nablus' Al Najah University, the scene of frequent anti-Israeli demonstrations.

Two of the wounded were in critical condition, said the Palestine Press Service which monitors news in the Israeli-occupied territories. Among the other wounded was a 16-year-old girl, the agency reported.

At Balata, soldiers fired on a group of about 100 demonstrators after they threw large rocks and empty bottles at the troops, according to the Israeli spokesman. The demonstrators also burned tires and waved the black, green, red and white flag of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), he said.

The press service said hundreds demonstrated "to condemn aggression by the (Shi'ite) Amal militia against Palestinians" in refugee camps near Beirut.

The Israeli army did not release the names or ages of the wounded on Monday.

The press service identified the critically wounded as Raed Mohammad Hussein Rawash, 14, and Yehya Hussein Abu Sair, 18. It said Rawash suffered bullet wounds in the head and back and Sair was hit in the head and abdomen.

The press service said the violence spread to the Al Najah campus where soldiers fired tear gas and guns to disperse demonstrators, wounding two male students, both aged 23.

Al Najah has a student body of about 4,000 and is a frequent site of Israeli-Palestinian violence.

The press service said dozens of students left the campus after the clash and were joined by protesters in the city's Hussein Square. It said troops fired teargas canisters to disperse them.

It was the most serious outbreak of violence in the West Bank since four Palestinians were killed and at least 25 wounded during anti-Israeli protests in December.

Israeli reports said the demonstrators were protesting against Israel's "iron fist" policy in the West Bank.

Lebanese assail Shultz over remarks on Beirut

BEIRUT (R) — Two Lebanese Muslim leaders criticised U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz on Monday for urging the isolation of Beirut and its residents.

Mr. Shultz, speaking of a threat by an underground group to kill American hostages, had said Beirut people were responsible for what was happening in their city.

"The people of Beirut have to recognise that what they are doing is ruining themselves," he said. "They, in effect, have a plague there. They are isolating themselves from the world and the world should isolate them."

Mohammad Hussein Fadlallah, a Shi'ite Muslim and spiritual mentor of the pro-Iranian Hizbollah (Party of God), said he read Mr. Shultz's remarks with amazement.

"We figure it represents evasion from a problem the American administration could solve by exerting pressure on Israel," he said.

Sheikh Fadlallah said: "America may isolate Beirut economically with its navy... it may destroy Lebanon with its shells as

Prime minister meets senior officials, briefs them on government programmes

AMMAN (J.T.) — Prime Minister Zaid Rifai on Monday reaffirmed the government's commitment to the principles and guidelines contained in the letter of appointment given to him by His Majesty King Hussein when the government was formed and outlined Jordan's political stands vis-à-vis Arab, regional and international issues. The prime minister also reiterated Jordan's firm stands towards the Palestinian problem, the Iran-Iraq war and the Lebanese strife.

The prime minister was addressing a meeting attended by Cabinet members, the chief Islamic justice, governors, and the directors general of various government departments and institutions as well as the secretaries general and under-secretaries of the various ministries.

Mr. Rifai reviewed the principles which constituted the starting point for any action or effect towards achieving national as well as pan-Arab goals as outlined in the King's letter of appointment to him, the Jordan News Agency, Petra, said. He



also made a review of Jordan's role in the Arab League, the Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC), the Non-Aligned Movement and the United Nations, Rifai said.

Mr. Rifai emphasised his government's adherence to the principles to which it committed itself before the King and the people in the statement the Cabinet issued while assuming office. The statement contained the government's programmes, projects and policies aimed at pursuing the Kingdom's march towards development and tackling the external impact of the general local economic activities, Petra quoted him as saying.

Mr. Rifai also listed the major achievements of the government in the fields of social affairs and economy and said they were the result of collective efforts aimed at achieving progress and development.

In the field of administration, Petra said, Mr. Rifai reviewed the work of the Royal Commission for Administrative Development in modernising the Kingdom's financial and administrative regulations. The prime minister also made a review of relations among government departments and the new civil service system.

The prime minister also emphasised the major role played by public servants in the service of the citizen and stressed the necessity of abandoning routine and adopting flexible management policies, Petra said.

Rocket attack downs plane in Afghanistan; 30 killed

Rebels claim responsibility in Islamabad

ISLAMABAD (Agencies) — Thirty people were reported killed aboard a passenger plane when it crashed after being hit by rocket in Afghanistan, Radio Kabul and the Soviet news agency TASS said Monday. Rebels fighting the Soviet-backed Afghan government claimed responsibility for the attack saying the aircraft was carrying Afghan and Soviet soldiers.

Radio Kabul said the plane was carrying women, children and old men and that it was attacked in eastern Afghanistan. TASS identified the aircraft as a Soviet-built Antonov 26 and placed the death toll at 30 including the six-member crew.

Radio Kabul or TASS did not say whether the aircraft was civilian or military, Soviet or Afghan. "The plane caught fire, lost control, and plummeted to earth, killing 30 people," TASS said.

Afghan guerrilla officials quoted by AP in Islamabad said the plane was downed as it was making its landing approach at Khost on the eastern border. They said dozens of soldiers died when the plane blew up in mid-air, but gave no precise death toll.

Khost is the main government base in eastern Afghanistan's Paktia province. It has been the centre of a major battle during the past week between Soviet and Afghan forces and guerrillas.

The AN-26 is a twin-engine propeller passenger plane widely used as a military transport and also as a civilian airliner. The Afghan air force has two transport squadrons that fly the AN-26.

The United States recently began supplying the insurgents with Stinger anti-aircraft missiles. Soviet and Afghan officials have also said other nations have provided the insurgents with anti-aircraft missiles.

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Diplomats in Baghdad said Iran had massed a big concentration of troops for another push on Basra.

They said Tehran could launch a fresh attack to coincide with the eighth anniversary of Iran's Islamic revolution this week.

General Rashid said: "We will deal the enemy painful blows and inflict heavy losses... in any future adventure to be added to the thousands killed or wounded in the previous abortive attacks."

He said Iraqi forces were now back in full control of the battleground east and south of Basra a month after the Iranian attack.

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Likud and Labour seek compromise on settlements

TEL AVIV (R) — Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir of the right-wing Likud bloc held intensive consultations on Monday to try to end a coalition dispute with the Labour Party over aid to Israel's debt-ridden collective kibbutz farms.

Likud has said it will not approve a \$170 million loan to 55 financially troubled kibbutzim until the Labour Party agrees that Jewish settlements in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip receive more government funding.

Mr. Shamir and Labour Foreign Minister Shimon Peres met to try to work out a compromise to the disagreement that has underscored the deep differences between them.

Mr. Shamir also held talks with Likud parliamentarians who have warned they will not approve the \$24 billion annual budget — which includes the loan to the kibbutzim — unless Labour agrees to fresh spending for the Jewish settlements in the occupied Arab areas.

The kibbutzim say they need the funds to help pay back interest of over 100 per cent annually on millions of dollars in loans they took in years when Israel was plagued by hyperinflation.

With inflation now down from over 400 per cent in 1985 to an annual rate of about 20 per cent, the kibbutzim say they can no longer meet their debts.

Israel's 286 kibbutzim, which represent three per cent of the population, produce half the country's agricultural goods.

Likud has long been the champion of increasing Jewish presence in the occupied territories, where over 100,000 Jews have settled among a population of 1.3 million Palestinians.

Likud accuses Labour of ignoring a 1984 coalition agreement to set up six new settlements in the occupied territories. (Levy to push for Hebrew settlements, page 2).

Likud poured millions of dollars into Jewish settlements in the occupied territories when it was in power without Labour between 1977 and 1984.

Gulf conflict poses new problems for U.S., Soviets

LONDON (R) — The United States and the Soviet Union agree on one thing: Neither of them wants to see the Iraqi city of Basra fall into the hands of the Iranian forces, Western diplomats and analysts say.

The latest Iranian advance on Basra, in south east Iraq, has reawakened old anxieties for the superpowers which for years have watched with relative indifference as the Gulf war ground on in a bloody stalemate.

The main problem is how to stop an Iranian victory without alienating Tehran. Middle East experts said.

Most, though not all, analysts still believe Iraq cannot win the war outright. Iraq's defences are too strong and its financial backing from the Gulf Arab states too firm, they said.

U.S. officials, with access to satellite photographs said Basra was not in imminent danger.

Basra, Iraq's second city, would be captured by the biggest prize won by either side since the war started in September 1980.

Neither Washington nor Moscow wants to see Iraq overrun. For the United States, Iranian ascendancy in the oil-producing Gulf area would be a strategic nightmare.

The Soviet Union also wants stability in the region. Western diplomats say, and would be deeply humiliated by the defeat of an army which has relied mainly on Soviet weaponry against Iran's American arsenal inherited from the days of the Shah.

But both superpowers also recognise the strategic importance of Iran, with its long border with the Soviet Union.

It was a desire to improve relations with moderate elements in the Islamic fundamentalist regime of Ayatollah Khomeini that led Washington into its ill-fated policy of supplying Tehran with military spare parts.

The Americans and Soviets have therefore professed a policy of neutrality, but there the similarity ends, analysts say.

"It's a superficial neutrality," says Shahrman Chubin of the Institute of International Studies in Geneva. "Underneath there's competition to cultivate Iran."

"The geopolitical rivalry of the superpowers means that any common position is ruled out. The question for them is: Which of them's going to be in the better position when the war ends?"

Fears in the United States and Soviet Union that the other could cash in on the outcome of the war lie behind suggestions from both sides that the rival superpowers may be threatening the area militarily, neutral analysts said.

In fact, diplomats see little or no chance that either Moscow or Washington would send troops to the Gulf as a result of advances by Iran or Iraq.

Soviet concerns were expressed in a statement issued on Jan. 8, the day before the Iranian offensive started, which charged that the United States was stirring up the Gulf conflict in order "to dictate its will to the peoples of the region."

Some Western commentators said the statement betrayed a Soviet shift towards Iraq by saying there was no reason why the war should not end quickly, despite Tehran's assertions that it will go on fighting until its war aims have been achieved.

These include the ouster of the Iraqi government.

Reflecting Moscow's sensitivity to this interpretation, Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze soon afterwards assured Iran of

the Kremlin's continued neutrality, according to Iranian embassy officials in the Soviet capital.

Moscow has been trying to restore economic cooperation with Iran.

Apart from not alienating Iran or Iraq, the Soviet Union also faces diplomatic headaches in the Middle East at large. Its main ally, Syria, supports Iran, but Moscow cannot afford to offend the vast majority of Arab states which back Iraq.

The United States, for its part, has often been accused of conniving at the continuation of a conflict which is ruining two potential foes of its ally Israel.

Iraqi First Deputy Prime Minister Taha Yassin Ramadan told the New York Times this month that Iraq had lost its oil port of Fao to Iran last year because Washington had supplied it with faulty information playing down the scale of the Iranian attack.

Domestic critics, however, accuse the Reagan administration more of neglect than of malice in its Gulf policy, and say the arms-to-Iraq scandal has not turned up any public sympathy for Iraq.

Washington resumed diplomatic relations with Iraq in 1984 but has none with Iran.

"In both the State Department and the Pentagon, officials admit the United States has no contingency plans for thwarting a Khomeini victory," Middle East expert Milton Viorst wrote in the latest issue of the influential U.S. journal Foreign Affairs.

"Conceding the seriousness of the threat, they say... that the secretaries of State and Defence have not been willing to place serious policy proposals before the president."

Most diplomats in Europe believe both superpowers are broadly sincere in saying they would like the war to end soon with the situation on the ground as close as possible to what it was before hostilities started.

Levy vows to push for 6 Hebron settlements

By Joel Greenberg
Jerusalem Post

HEBRON — Housing Minister David Levy has declared here that he would unilaterally order work to begin on six new settlements in the territories if the cabinet did not move to establish them.

"Settlement will not be frozen, and no one will impose a freeze on us," Levy (Likud-Herut) asserted at a ceremony marking the start of his ministry's construction of new housing in Hebron.

The project will contain 13 flats and a "Betar Movement Centre for the Study of the Land of Israel."

"If there is stalling, I will order the immediate start of work to establish new settlements on which there is a cabinet decision," Levy told an applauding rain-soaked crowd. Later, he told reporters: "If there is no readiness to discuss implementation of this clause, which is rooted in the government's basic guidelines, I will have no choice but to carry it out myself."

Levy said he would take action if there were no progress by the time the state budget was approved. He said his office had last week submitted a detailed



David Levy speaks during a tour of Hebron

budget proposal for the six new settlements to Finance Minister Moshe Nissim.

Levy denied that his unilateral move would contradict government policy, and said that the failure to establish the settlements was itself a violation of the coalition agreement and government guidelines.

In an oblique reference to Prime Minister Shamir, Levy warned against the Likud failing to meet its obligations to its voters. "Apparently, someone is interested in signalling that in order to move along a certain line we are freezing settlement. To this person I say, settlement will not be stopped. This is the supreme imperative for which the Likud is in the government. If the Likud denies, or is embarrassed about, or bends (to pressure) over continuation of settlement, it will have violated its mission, trust and mandate."

12 Libyans reportedly killed in Chad fighting

N'DJAMENA (R) — Twelve Libyan soldiers were killed and seven captured in a clash with government forces north of the key oasis of Fada, Chad's official radio said Monday.

A statement from the military high command quoted by the radio said there were no casualties among government forces in the fighting at Fada, a remote outpost 150 kilometres from the government-held oasis of Fada in north eastern Chad.

Government forces seized seven Libyan vehicles, it added. The latest clash follows reports from Paris that France has begun to move troops and equipment nearer the 16th parallel "red line" dividing Chad in an apparent response to a Libyan troop build-up in the north.

In N'Djamena, Chadian officials and the government-controlled

media have not reacted to reports that France was setting up two new bases in Abeche and Biltine.

Abeche lies at the eastern end of the main road crossing Chad from N'Djamena in the west and Biltine is to the north of it, nearer the 16th parallel.

The current 1,400-strong French force was rushed to Chad a year ago to help the government of President Hissene Habre check a southwards push by Libya and its rebel allies.

The military statement said the bodies of 23 Libyan soldiers killed during recent fighting in the north western Tibesti Mountains had been near Zouar, 1,000 kilometres north of the capital.

Zouar has been the scene of sporadic fighting and bombing since it was recaptured by Mr. Habre's men on Jan. 21.

Israeli minister in Spain

TEL AVIV (R) — Deputy Prime Minister Yitzhak Navon flew to Spain Monday for the first visit there by an Israeli cabinet minister since Madrid established diplomatic relations with Israel in January last year.

Navon, who is also minister of education and culture, said he would meet Spain's King Juan Carlos and Prime Minister Felipe Gonzalez during his four-day trip.

A former president of Israel, Navon is a descendant of Jews expelled from Spain during the inquisition in 1492, and speaks fluent Spanish.

He said that during the visit he will sign a cultural agreement for the exchange of artists, researchers and scientists.

Navon is a member of the Labour Party led by Foreign Minister Shimon Peres.

South Korean envoy denies Seoul involvement in arms sales to Iran

By P.V. Vivekanand
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The South Korean ambassador to Jordan, Mr. Dongsoon Park, has categorically denied a local newspaper report that his country was involved in arms sales to Iran, and reiterated Seoul's "strict neutrality in the Gulf conflict."

Commenting on a report carried this week by the Arabic language daily Al-Dustour, Mr. Dongsoon said on Monday: "South Korea does not export any offensive arms to any country. I would like to state categorically that no South Korean dealers, individuals or the government, are involved in any arms sales to Iran."

In its issue of Feb. 8, 1987, the Jordan Times carried an Associated Press story which quoted the Al-Dustour report.

In its London-dated report, Al-Dustour quoted "informed diplomatic sources" as saying spare parts for American-built warplanes were shipped to Iran in January. These parts, which are supposed to be unavailable to Iran under an American ban on arms sales to Tehran, were shipped from South Korea and West German dealers, the daily said, adding that the shipment was carried out "without the intervention of the American government."

The daily did not give figures or specifics on the cash value, the volume of the shipment or the nature of the spare parts. But it quoted its sources as saying that Israeli arms dealers, who were involved in previous arms shipments to Iran under a U.S.-Israeli arrangement, were not involved in the January shipment. It added

that arms were purchased for Iran by West German and South Korean dealers. It did not give any names.

In his statement to the Jordan Times Monday, Ambassador Dongsoon said exports from South Korea of military nature were mainly "soft items such as shoes, uniforms, etc."

He said his country was "strictly neutral" in the Gulf conflict and that it hoped for "an amicable solution to the six-and-a-half-year-old conflict through peaceful negotiations."

Seoul maintains diplomatic relations with Iran and relations at consular level with Iraq. Recently South Korea was the scene of defection by Iranian boxers taking part in the 1986 Asian Games held in Seoul. Reports said that the boxers sought refuge in the Iraqi mission in the South Korean capital and later left the country. Their whereabouts at present could not be immediately verified although earlier reports said they had arrived in Geneva, possibly on their way to Iraq.

The report of alleged involvement by West German and South Korean dealers in arms shipments to Iran comes after revelations in Washington that the U.S. administration had authorised arms sales to Iran in return for the release of American hostages held by pro-Iranian groups in Lebanon.

A series of reports in the various European capitals have charged that many countries in Europe, including Italy, Spain, Portugal, Greece, West Germany, France, Belgium and Britain, were venues or transit points for arms deals or shipments to Iran. All these countries have vehemently denied official in-

volvement in the alleged transactions.

In Belgium, the head of a centre-right political party has called for the resignation of Foreign Minister Leo Tindemans and Finance Minister Philippe Maystadt following reports alleging that the country had a role in arms sales to Iran.

The call for the resignation was on the grounds that the two ministers were responsible for issuing export licences for arms. Belgian press reports have said that Belgium played a crucial role in the sale and shipment of American and West European arms to Iran between 1983 and 1985. The government has denied knowledge of any arms shipments to Iran other than the sale of two hunting rifles it okayed in 1980.

The Belgian party leader also called for the publication of a report by Swedish customs officials reportedly documenting arms exports to Iran by a Swedish firm during 1986 in cooperation with companies in West Germany, Belgium and The Netherlands.

Mr. Tindemans and Mr. Maystadt have said they have no knowledge whatsoever of arms shipments from Belgium ports to Iran. A Portuguese magazine said Sunday that Iran had become one of the major purchasers of Portuguese arms in the past years. Quoting official statistics, the magazine said Portugal exported military equipment worth \$150 million in the last three years.

According to the magazine, Portugal shipped arms to Iran as recently as last Friday aboard a West German vessel from a Portuguese port, and that another vessel was waiting to be loaded with Portuguese weapons destined for Iran.

Cyprus 'unfriendly' to foreign drug users

LARNACA, Cyprus (R) — Cyprus Monday jailed a Lebanese-born American for holding a small amount of cannabis and a judge warned foreigners the island was not friendly to drug-users.

Issam Krolf, 49, was sentenced to three months for possession of just 37 grammes (1.3 oz) of cannabis. He pleaded guilty and said it was for his personal use.

Larnaca district court Judge George Nicolaou told him: "Foreigners must be made aware that Cyprus is not friendly territory to those using or transiting drugs."

Krolf was arrested at Larnaca airport six days ago when he checked in for a flight to Beirut. Police said he was an engineer who had been working for an American company in Saudi Arabia for five years.

Conservation plan for Oman unveiled

MUSCAT (R) — World wildlife experts have unveiled a plan to make the rugged Sultanate of Oman a world leader in nature conservation.

Oman's Sultan Qaboos Ibn Said commissioned a survey two years ago from the Swiss-based International Union for the Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources (IUCN).

The honorary chairman of the World Wildlife Fund, Britain's Sir Peter Scott, joined IUCN officials to present the results of the survey Sunday to senior ministers and officials.

Scott told Reuters he believed the plan provided Oman with the best chance among all developing countries to save its natural resources.

The situation in Oman was exceptional because the environment was still intact. "It is a unique opportunity for the country not to make the mistakes everybody else has," Scott said.

The IUCN project leader in Oman, John Clarke, said his team had identified some 100 animals and 94 plants of special interest to conservationists.

The plan earmarked 91 nature conservation areas, of which 59 would be national reserves, ranging from less than one to thousands of square kilometres, where no one could live and land use and development would be strictly controlled.

It also singled out sites of special interest, such as desert pools, coastal lagoons, tidal inlets, caves and even landscape views.

The survey ranged widely over Oman's 120,000 square miles (310,000 square kilometres) of land from the rocky Musandam Peninsula opposite Iran at the Strait of Hormuz, across the 3,000 metre "Green Mountain" range and the fertile coastal plain north of Muscat, over the shifting Wahiba Sands and the "empty quarter" to the lush semi-tropics of the southern Dhofar region.

Clarke said the plan called for a government policy statement, laws to protect wildlife and nature conservation and the setting up of a special conservation body within the Environment Ministry.

Environment Minister Sayyid Shabib Ibn Taimour Al Said said the council of ministers chaired by Sultan Qaboos would make a final decision on the project.

TV & RADIO

| | | | |
|---------------------------------|---|-------|---------------------|
| JORDAN TELEVISION | | 21:05 | Evening Show Contd. |
| Tel: 73111-19 | | 22:00 | News Summary |
| | | 22:05 | Evening Show Contd. |
| | | 23:00 | Evening Show Contd. |
| | | 23:30 | Evening Show Contd. |
| | | 24:00 | Show Close Down |
| PROGRAMME ONE | | | |
| 15:30 | Koran | | |
| 15:35 | Programme Review | | |
| 15:50 | Artistic | | |
| 16:00 | Ecology Workshop | | |
| 17:00 | Punky Brewster | | |
| 17:30 | Festivals of the World | | |
| 18:00 | Religious programme | | |
| 18:30 | Arabic series | | |
| 19:30 | Programme on Education | | |
| 19:50 | Programme Review | | |
| 20:00 | News in Arabic | | |
| 20:30 | Arabic series | | |
| 21:25 | Tomorrow's programme | | |
| 21:30 | Law and the Society (local) | | |
| 22:15 | Songs from the movies (Arabic) | | |
| 22:30 | News in Hebrew | | |
| 23:10 | Arabic Play | | |
| 00:30 | Show Close down | | |
| PROGRAMME TWO | | | |
| 18:00 | Le Petit Docteur | | |
| 19:00 | News in French | | |
| 19:15 | French Varieties | | |
| 19:30 | News in Hebrew | | |
| 19:45 | Economics Made Easy | | |
| 20:00 | News in Arabic | | |
| 20:30 | Ever Decreasing Circles | | |
| 20:45 | Tasaday | | |
| 22:00 | News in English | | |
| 22:20 | The Fourth Arm | | |
| RADIO JORDAN | | | |
| 885 KHz, AM & 90 MHz, FM | | | |
| & partly on 885 KHz, SW | | | |
| Tel: 73111-19 | | | |
| 07:00 | Light Music | | |
| 07:30 | NewsDesk | | |
| 08:00 | Morning Show | | |
| 08:30 | News Summary | | |
| 08:45 | Morning Show Contd. | | |
| 11:00 | Comedy | | |
| 11:30 | Easy Listening | | |
| 12:00 | News | | |
| 12:05 | Readings | | |
| 12:30 | Pop Session | | |
| 13:00 | News Summary | | |
| 13:05 | Pop Session Contd. | | |
| 14:00 | News Bulletin | | |
| 14:30 | Instrumentals | | |
| 14:30 | Pop Talk | | |
| 15:00 | Concert Hour | | |
| 16:00 | News Summary | | |
| 16:05 | Instrumentals, Old Favourites | | |
| 17:00 | Jordan Weekly | | |
| 17:30 | Pop Session | | |
| 18:00 | News Summary | | |
| 18:45 | Top Tunes | | |
| 19:00 | News Desk | | |
| 19:30 | Date with a Star | | |
| 19:50 | Evening Show | | |
| 21:00 | News Summary | | |
| BBC WORLD SERVICE | | | |
| 639, 720, 1223 KHz | | | |
| 06:30 | Newsdesk 06:30 Pierre Fourrier | | |
| 06:45 | Reflections 06:45 International News | | |
| 07:00 | World News 07:00 7:40 Four Hours | | |
| 07:30 | News Summary 07:30 New Ideas 7:30 | | |
| 08:00 | Book Choice 07:45 The World Today | | |
| 08:15 | Newsdesk 08:15 Roads, Salads | | |
| 09:00 | World News 09:00 | | |
| 09:15 | News Summary 09:30 Computer | | |
| 09:45 | World News 09:45 UK 10:00 World News | | |
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| 10:15 | News 10:30 Future and the World | | |
| 11:00 | World News 11:00 British Press | | |
| 11:15 | Review 11:15 The World Today 11:30 | | |
| 11:45 | Financial News: Look Ahead 11:45 | | |
| 12:00 | Newsdesk 12:00 News Summary: | | |
| 12:30 | Discovery 12:30 Play: Joe the Obscure | | |
| 13:00 | World News 13:00 News About Britain | | |
| 13:15 | 13:15 Waveguide 13:25 A Letter | | |
| 13:45 | from Scotland 13:45 Newsdesk | | |
| 14:00 | 14:00 14:00 Radio Newswest 14:15 | | |
| 14:30 | Multi racial 1 14:45 Sports Round-up | | |
| 15:00 | World News 15:00 24 Hours: News Summary | | |
| 16:00 | 16:00 Outlook 16:45 Pierre Fourrier | | |
| 17:00 | Radio Newswest 17:15 A Jolly | | |
| 17:30 | Good Show 18:00 World News 18:00 | | |
| 18:15 | Commentary 18:15 Comment 18:45 | | |
| 19:00 | 19:00 19:00 Newsdesk 19:00 | | |
| 19:15 | A Letter from Scotland 19:15 | | |
| 19:45 | Meridian 19:45 Sports Roundup 20:00 | | |
| 20:15 | Newsdesk 01:30 Mary, Queen of Scots | | |
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| 05:00 | News 05:00 06:30 News VOA | | |
| 06:30 | Morning 06:30 News 06:10 Newsdesk | | |
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| 07:10 | Newsdesk 07:30 VOA Morning 08:00 | | |
| 08:10 | News 08:10 Newsdesk 08:30 VOA | | |
| 08:30 | Morning 08:00 News 09:10 Newsdesk | | |
| 09:10 | VOA Morning 09:45 News Summary | | |
| 17:00 | News 17:10 Newsdesk 17:30 | | |
| 17:30 | VOA News 18:00 News 18:10 Focus | | |
| 18:30 | Special English & Features 19:00 | | |
| 19:30 | News 19:10 Newsdesk 19:30 Magazine | | |
| 19:30 | Special English News & Features 21:00 | | |
| 21:10 | Newsdesk 21:30 Music | | |
| 22:00 | News & Editorial 22:15 | | |
| 22:15 | Music USA Jazz 23:00 News 23:10 | | |
| 23:10 | VOA World Report | | |

Khatib returns from official visit to Oman

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of Information Mohammad Al Khatib returned to Amman Monday at the end of a three-day visit to Oman where he signed an agreement on Jordanian-Omani cooperation in information fields following his talks with Omani government officials.

Mr. Khatib met with Sultan Qaboos with whom he reviewed Jordanian-Omani relations in general and means of bolstering bilateral cooperation in touristic, cultural and information fields in particular.

Upon his return to Amman, Mr. Khatib said in a statement that Sultan Qaboos underlined the importance of giving further momentum towards the closer coordination of efforts for the aim of making Jordanian-Omani relations exemplary.

Mr. Khatib described bilateral relations as excellent and said that the talks were characterised by total frankness and based on firm foundations. He said that the agreement signed in Muscat covered aspects of cooperation in

radio, television and the press, the exchange of expertise, programmes and mutual production, and also tourism.

Agreement was reached during the talks on holding periodic meetings between the information ministers of both countries to assess achievements and to plan for further executive programmes. Information officials from both sides will also meet regularly to discuss technical matters, the minister said. He added that in his talks with Prince Faisal bin Ali, the Omani minister of culture, cooperation in cultural affairs was discussed.

Mr. Khatib said that he and Mr. Salem bin Abdullah Al Ghazal, Omani minister of trade and industry, discussed aspects of cooperation between the two countries in tourist affairs and supplying Oman with Jordanian expertise to help develop Oman's tourist facilities. Programmes to train guides and the establishment of a hotel training institute in Oman were also discussed, Mr. Khatib concluded.



Minister of Information Mohammad Al Khatib returns to Amman Monday at the end of a three-day visit to Oman (Petra photo)

Security forces destroy 866 kgs of narcotics

AMMAN (J.T.) — Security forces on Monday destroyed 866 kilograms of narcotics with a street value of JD 2 million in addition to 1,626,124 Captagon tablets and a large number of cigarettes filled with hashish, assistant director of public security for legal affairs Major General Mahmoud Obeidat said Monday.

In a statement to the Jordan News Agency, Petra, Maj.-Gen. Obeidat said that the quantity included hashish, cocaine, opium, heroin, Indian hemp, in addition to poppy seeds mixed with milk powder.

Maj.-Gen. Obeidat added that Jordan is neither a narcotic producer nor a drug consuming country. He said that the number of narcotics addicts does not exceed 100 people and that the majority of them had started taking narcotics during their stays abroad.

The public security official added that the Public Security Department (PSD) and the Narcotics and Forgery Control Department apply modern and effective methods in detecting and dealing with narcotic traffickers. He pointed out that a number of public security officers have recently been trained in the use of police dogs to detect narcotics and that the dogs were being used in Ramtha and the Queen Alia International Airport.

In Zarqa, security forces on Sunday arrested three Lebanese nationals carrying 7.5 kilograms of hashish which they brought into Jordan from Lebanon, a report in the Arabic daily

Al Dustour said on Monday. Colonel Hashem Al Qaisi, director of the Narcotics and Forgery Control Department, said the three Lebanese citizens, were arrested while trying to sell the hashish, which had been hidden in their car.

Two weeks ago, Col. Qaisi reported the seizure of 140 kilograms of hashish and opium with a street value of JD 250,000 from a 27-member multi-national gang.

Col. Qaisi said anti-narcotics operations last year led to the arrest of 286 people, "Jordanians and other nationalities," for alleged use or sale of drugs, and confiscation of 934 kilograms of hashish, opium, heroin and cocaine.

"We are determined to prevent any narcotics from entering Jordan by air, sea or land," Col. Qaisi said.

The Narcotics and Forgery Control Department recently issued statistics which said that 286 people of Jordanian and other nationalities have been rounded up in 1986 in drug smuggling and trafficking cases.

The department said that last year authorities seized 1,200 kilos of processed hashish, 9 kilos of opium, 228 kilos of heroin, 1.2 kilos of cocaine, 15 syringes and 2,695,172 pills.

Col. Qaisi reported 86 drug addicts in Jordan in 1986, down from 114 people in 1985. He attributed the drop to his bureau's campaign against smuggling.

Dudin, Shawwa review projects for Gaza Strip

AMMAN (J.T.) — Former Mayor of occupied Gaza Rashad Al Shawwa on Monday voiced his total support for His Majesty King Hussein's efforts to increase the Palestinian people's steadfastness and ability to resist Israel's measures in the occupied Arab territories and to help them deal with the difficult economic circumstances they are presently facing.

Mr. Shawwa, who is leading a delegation from the Gaza Strip for talks with Jordanian government officials, was speaking during a meeting with Minister of Occupied Territories Affairs Marwan Dudin. The minister said that the government, under the directives of King Hussein, will continue to give attention to means of helping the Arab inhabitants living under Israeli rule to thwart Zionist plans and overcome difficult economic conditions in the occupied territory.

Mr. Shawwa said that the government's inclusion of the Gaza

Strip in a five-year development plan covering the occupied territories was deeply appreciated by the people of Gaza and its region.

During the meeting with the minister, the delegation outlined the Gaza Strip's needs and the urgent projects it hopes to carry out in the fields of health, education, agriculture, housing and handicraft industries.

The two sides reviewed the requests and needs and further action will be taken, according to a ministry spokesman. The ministry has already allocated JD 1.5 million to finance the implementation of urgent schemes in the Gaza Strip.

Following the meeting, Mr. Dudin said that the exchange of views had been very fruitful and successful. He said he was highly impressed with the homework done by the Gaza delegation on the projects to be implemented in their region.

Danish company to study wind energy potentials

AMMAN (Petra) — The Ministry of Energy and Mineral Resources on Monday concluded an agreement with a Danish company under which the company will provide consultative services for a project on the use of wind energy to generate electricity.

The agreement was signed for the Ministry of Energy by Dr. Hisham Khatib, and for the Jordan Electricity Authority by its director general Mohammad Said Arafah and by the company's representative, Mr. Eversson.

Under the agreement, the company will within one month embark on a survey to identify wind sources, wind speed analysis

and directions of wind, and will select a site to establish a pilot project for generating electricity using wind energy. The experimental pilot project will be linked with the national grid.

The company will also undertake a feasibility study in preparation for implementing the project on commercial bases in the future.

The agreement also provides that the company undertake a study on the materials and equipment which could be manufactured locally for operating the project. The study will take thirty months to complete.

Experts prepare for 42nd Arab economic and social council

RIYADH (Petra) — A two-day meeting at the experts level started in Riyadh on Monday to pave the way for holding the 42nd session of the Arab Economic and Social Council, due to convene here on Wednesday.

The experts will discuss a number of issues related to the recommendations issued by the 41st session and decisions and recommendations put forward by the

coordinating committee, which groups representatives of the Arab League general secretariat, its affiliated departments and Arab organisations.

They will also discuss recommendations passed by the 13th session of the standing committee for statistics and the recommendations of the first conference on Arab trade, which concluded here on Sunday.

Senate returns contracting law to legal committee after rejecting amendments

By Rana Sabbagh
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Senators on Monday rejected amendments to Jordan's first-ever contracting law passed by the Lower House of Parliament and halved the commission taken by the Jordanian Contractors Association (JCA) on each public tender project.

The Upper House which unanimously voted against the amendments, returned the 1986 draft law to the House's legal committee for reconsideration.

Drafted to consolidate the role of Jordan's ailing construction sector, the law gave the JCA an upper hand in organising the contracting sector, classified contractors into six grades according to their capital and services and compelled contractors to become fully-fledged association members before they could conduct any business. Previously, contractors were obliged to register as members of the Jordanian Engineers Association.

Senators were primarily opposed to article 49 number A/2 on the JCA revenues which stipulated that the association draws a 0.01 per cent share of the total value of each project executed by local or foreign contracting companies working here but said that the sum collected should not exceed JD 1,500. The House voted against the modification and reduced the percentage to 0.005 and put the total collected fees at a JD 1,000 maximum. The senators also voted against a Lower House amendment which said that the JCA president and his deputy should be grade A contractors. Senators Walid Salah, Haj Mohammad Ali Bdeir and recently appointed Hassan Al Kayyed expressed reservations over a Senate legal committee resolution allowing the JCA president to be a grade one contractor and leaving the door open for his deputy to either be a grade one or two contractor. Both men said that the JCA president and the deputy president should have 10-years experience in the contracting business, regardless of their grade since the classifications depended mainly on the company's capital. The grade one contractor should have a company with a paid up capital of JD 0.5 million or more.

"What matters is to have a sociable and experienced president who is capable of defending the rights of the association and its members," said Senator Salah. Senator Haj Jumma's Hamam said: "The president could come from a grade between one to five. We want to consolidate harmony among the members and during the board meetings."

Senator Hazem Nusseibeh suggested that House members either focus on the grades (capital) or on democracy at the JCA. Commenting to the Jordan Times shortly after the law was referred, JCA President Ali Abu Al Ragheb said: "We don't mind the amendments since the general council will elect the deputy president they want, regardless of whether he is a grade one or two contractor."

Monday's almost two-hour session witnessed lively debates among a large number of the 25 senators present. Mr. Bdeir in particular put forward comments on almost all articles in the 57-point law.

The draft law, as endorsed by the Lower House, stated that no public institution was allowed to grant a tender to a local company if it was not a JCA member. This article also incorporated an earlier Cabinet decision which instructed all public sector departments and institutions to give priority to local contractors. Under the legislation, foreign contractors were allowed to operate in Jordan if they adhered to a list of JCA articles. Also in cases where development projects were financed by non-Jordanian funds, foreign companies were allowed to work with local contracting companies on a joint-venture basis in accordance with the draft law. Foreign companies would only be allowed to do construction on their own after a special technical committee, chaired by the minister of public works, finds sufficient reasons.

The Senate's legal committee amendment to this article allowed foreign embassies based in Jordan to set up their official projects and to provide for their future maintenance through either Jordanian or foreign contractors. This amendment was apparently ratified to suit the

needs of three projects to set up a British, an American and a Spanish embassy in Jordan.

A number of Senate members commented on the wisdom behind leaving such "loopholes" in the law vis-a-vis foreign companies and Dr. Salem questioned the law saying: "Was this law really prepared to benefit the Jordanian contractor or other foreign companies who are JCA members?"

Mr. Bdeir added: "If the law aimed at employing Jordanians — such an article giving privileges to foreign embassies — undermines the whole goal."

Senate legal committee rapporteur Ahmad Al Tarawneh said that the law was directed towards helping the Jordanian industry, but that the exceptions to the law were to be studied by the special technical committee, which would submit its report to the Prime Ministry for final consent.

According to the law, the special technical committee chaired by the minister of public works, groups the ministry's under secretary, director of the tenders department, the president of the engineers association, the JCA president and a member from the concerned company. This committee is entrusted with studying reasons for forming a joint-venture contracting company and putting the institution's operation rules.

Senator Salem, adding a new dimension to the discussion on exceptions for foreign companies' operations, said that foreign loans granted to finance development projects here have never benefited the country's economy nor increased its foreign currency reserves. "The benefits of the loan we take always benefit the lenders through machinery imports, consultancy wages and foreign labour salaries," said Dr. Salem, urging the government to get rid of the "loans policy," and if not, to at least channel some of these finances to benefit the local company.

Prime Minister Zaid Rifai said whenever Jordan secured any foreign loan, the lender's list of conditions stipulate that the issuing of tenders should be "in the form of international bidding," leaving the door open for the most reasonable company to win the contract regardless of its nationality. "If such an article is removed, we would cancel all

possibilities for seeking foreign loans," said Mr. Rifai. "This article is an exception to the law since we cannot get loans and restrict their benefits to Jordanian contractors," said Mr. Rifai. The House introduced another amendment to article 17/B of the law which was not originally recommended by the Senate legal committee.

Joint ventures

The article referred to joint venture contracting companies and said if any of the two parties violated the establishment regulations, or if one of the two sides paid commission to the other side, their contract would be withdrawn. The article did not specify the side to authorise the withdrawal of the contract.

Senators authorised the Prime Ministry, upon recommendations from the technical committee, to withdraw the execution contract in case violations or commissions are committed by one of the two sides involved in the joint-contracting project.

Mr. Rifai, Mr. Hawamdeh and Senator Mudar Badran were in favour of this addition to the article and said the motive behind it was to stop any violations or commissions.

The JCA groups 368 members divided in accordance with the following grades: 62 (grade one), 65 (grade two), 63 (grade three), 80 (grade four), 77 (grade five) and 21 (grade six).

Under the law, secret balloting is used during the general elections for the board. Also contractors classified between grades one to five are allowed to participate in the general elections to elect representatives to the board. Grade six contractors, who were excluded from the general elections, were given a chance to elect their only representative in a special secret balloting procedure to commence after the first general elections.

Senator Salah voted against this article charging it was not in harmony with democracy and equal rights as provided by the Jordanian constitution. He said that general elections should include all classified contractors since each one of these different grades is a fully-fledged JCA member. However, his suggestion was rejected.

The editor and staff of the Jordan Times deeply mourn the passing of

Jaladat Shafiq Nabil

beloved brother of our colleague Lima Nabil, and express to all the family our heartfelt condolences.



ART FROM SPAIN ON TOUR: A 10-day art exhibition is underway at the Spanish Cultural Centre in Amman featuring 24 works by Spanish artist Patricia Vano. The collection of paintings had been exhibited in Damascus before coming to Jordan and on Feb. 12 it will move to Egypt and later to Tunisia before returning to Spain. The exhibition has been organised with the Jordanian-Spanish cultural exchange programme.



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Darker clouds

DARKER and more ominous clouds are hanging over Lebanon these days. The so-called "camps war" is still raging savagely with no speedy end in sight to the bloodletting in spite of all the efforts of Arabs and non-Arabs to stop it. The death toll has risen to 545 in the 11 weeks since the Shatila and Bourj Al Barajneh Palestinian refugee camps came under siege by the Shi'ite Amal militiamen. News reports coming out of the refugee camps speak of starvation and untold hardships being experienced by people living there. At the same time, the U.S. navy in the Eastern Mediterranean still looms on the horizon, ready to strike should U.S. hostages be executed. Meanwhile, the whereabouts of the British Anglican church envoy Terry Waite is still unknown, although it is now almost certain that he is being held as a hostage too. His safety is being endangered by the rumours that he was acting for Western intelligence agencies while attempting to negotiate an end to the ordeals of the kidnapped in Lebanon. And in the midst of all these events, there are now apparent unofficial negotiations with the group calling itself Islamic Jihad for the Liberation of Palestine to exchange the four American hostages which it is holding for some 400 Palestinian prisoners held in Israeli jails. The offer by Amal leader Nabih Berri to exchange prisoners came in the wake of the ultimatum issued to Israel by the Islamic Jihad to accept their offer or face the execution of the hostages.

On the surface, Berri's offer makes sense and should be pursued. Specifically, he is suggesting to exchange the Israeli airmen being held by the Amal forces for the 400 Palestinian prisoners being held by Israel. It is interesting to note that while the Islamic Jihad's offer is being rejected by Israel, Israeli leaders are not dismissing Berri's offer outright. Shimon Peres, the Israeli foreign minister, is quoted as suggesting that Berri's offer be made through proper channels. It thus appears as though the emerging triangular negotiations emerging over the hostages and prisoners issue could bear fruit, and if this is so, then the whole issue which invited the U.S. military buildup could be defused as well. This would leave us still with the greater issue of the fighting between the Palestinians and Amal and the situation in Shatila and Bourj Al Barajneh and other refugee camps in Lebanon.

In real terms the camps and the poor neighbourhoods in the southern part of Beirut are now the real hostages in Lebanon, having been under siege and continuous shelling since last October. It is not hard to imagine the hardships associated with the kidnapping of one single innocent person, let alone when hundreds of thousands of innocent people are besieged and blockaded for so many months. Should the fate of the few individuals taken as hostages unfold in a positive direction, we think the minds of all of us should turn next to the Palestinian refugee camps and all other areas in west and south Beirut who are now hostage to factional fighting and have become the real, perpetual victims in the volatile arena that is Lebanon.

ARABIC PRESS EDITORIALS

Al Ra'i: Peres' dream persists

IN an interview with Israel's military radio Shimon Peres, the Israeli foreign minister, called again for direct negotiations between Jordan and Israel and said that peace between Israel and Jordan is the genuine peace. But it is to be noted that Jordan has been reiterating the need for a total settlement of the Arab-Israeli conflict and the establishment of a genuine peace which will entail a total Israeli withdrawal from Arab lands and the recognition of the rights of the Palestinian people in their homeland. Also Jordan has been calling for an international conference so that such a durable peace can be achieved. Hence, Peres' statement about direct negotiations and or partial solutions for the Middle East question remain empty talk. Jordan has announced its firm policy in this regard and continues to adhere to that policy. Jordan has announced that it cannot act on behalf of the Palestine Liberation Organisation nor can it represent the Palestinian people. The continued Israeli propaganda campaign directed against Jordan can never intimidate this country nor can it force it to change its national stands. Jordan's views have been well understood by France, Italy and the Vatican and appreciated and looked on favourably and with respect by many other nations because this country aims at achieving a comprehensive peace based on justice.

Al Dustour: Conflict escalates

IT seems that Washington has not completely scrapped its military options in Lebanon despite the soothing statements issued by a number of American government officials over the past days. American warships are still stationed off the Lebanese coast and the American aircraft are flying over the region threatening to attack any time in a bid to secure the release of the hostages in Lebanon; or if the hostages are murdered. The kidnappers are maintaining that they will kill the hostages if their demands are not met, and so they are tempting the Americans to launch their attack on Lebanon as soon as possible. Both the kidnappers stand and the American threats of intervention are unacceptable and unjustified because any military activity would endanger the lives of the innocent Lebanese people, and cause further sufferings and tragedies to Lebanon. Perhaps the American administration would launch an attack anyway not for the sake of releasing the hostages but for the sake of seeking vengeance on the kidnappers, and their groups in Lebanon. We totally reject any pretext given by the Americans for intervention but at the same time we hope that the groups that hold the hostages will refrain from carrying out their plans and kill their captives.

Sawt Al Shaab: Why blame others?

ISRAEL, through its close collaboration with the United States and in pursuit of its dreams in the Arab region, has been able to push the Middle East issue to the bottom of priorities on the list of important world problems. Through its coordination with the United States, Israel has been able to divert world attention to the situation in Lebanon and the Gulf region where it succeeded in carrying out a plot designed to fragment the Arab and Muslim nations and cause further splits within the Arab World. For the world, the Arab-Israeli conflict is a secondary issue now, and no one is giving due attention to it or to the means of ending the problem of Israel's occupation of Arab land. At the same time, Israel has been able to continue with its own programme for consolidating its hold on Arab territory and ...ing more settlements on Arab land it still holds since 1967.

La Rabais d'Hiver de Chirac

By Dr. Nayef S. Zu'bi

A few years ago, Yves Guithannec, the economic editor of Le Figaro, somberly noted that the experiences of the right in Britain, and the left in France, stand as a warning to those who argue, that increased government intervention and higher taxes are effective in reducing unemployment or producing higher standards of living. The argument for the need for state controls has been losing ground in France since then. The Socialist president, Mr. Francois Mitterrand, and his outgoing finance minister, Mr. Pierre Berezgoy came to realise that nationalisation curtails the competitiveness of France. They came to recognise that economic rationality should be above political ideology.

To fulfil campaign promises, and to adhere to ideological stands, the Mitterrand Socialist government, when coming to power embarked on a demand-side economics course of action. Government spending increased dramatically. Wage and price controls were enacted. Exchange controls combined with successive doses of devaluations were introduced. New laws that increased monetary and non-monetary rewards to workers in the form of reduced working week, paid vacations, and early retirement with all due benefits were introduced. Credit controls, introduced in 1972, continued to reign. Obviously, the victims of what the French call "encadrement du credit" were by and large small and medium businesses, whose access to international markets is limited, and whose contribution to employment is important.

French banks, while securing in a recent survey three positions among the world's top ten banks in terms of assets, continued to be a political football. General Charles de Gaulle started the nationalisation of what came to be known as the *Trio Vieilles* (the three old ladies), namely the Credit Lyonnais, Societe Generale and the two banks merged in 1966 to become the Banque Nationale de Paris (BNP). In the belief, that nationalisation is needed to properly serve the financing function of the economic activities, the Socialist government of President Mitterrand put more banks under state controls. The experiment was a failure. The reversal was eminent.

Today, France is shifting gears. A Socialist president facing a conservative assembly is providing the necessary ingredients for a

new direction in economic policy. A direction, that is also fair to say, has already started under the outgoing Socialist finance minister, Mr. Berezgoy. A major privatisation scheme of major government enterprises, along with the deregulation of the banking sector, and the revitalisation of the financial markets is planned to take place over the next five years. The move has been dubbed as "France's financial revolution," thus bringing to mind contrasts to the glorious French revolution of 1789. "La Rabais d'Hiver de Chirac" — Chirac's Winter Sale — is another media name for the privatisation drive. A name that reminds us that Paris is after all a city of fashion shows, and the sales thereafter.

Mr. Chirac's Winter Sale involves companies of market capitalisation of \$45 billion. The banking sector share alone is around \$15 billion. It makes Mrs. Thatcher's privatisation scheme of \$5 billion that took place over the past five years look as a downpayment. What is at stake in the French privatisation scheme is more than 20 per cent of the current market capitalisation of French businesses, the latter standing at \$90 billion. The companies to be privatised cover a wide range of economic activities: electrical and electronic companies such as Thomson SA and CGE, oil and chemicals such as Elf Aquitaine and Total — CFP, aerospace such as Avions M. Dassault, and banks such as Paribas.

To encourage the participation of the French citizenry in the newly created equities, brought about by privatisation, the government privatisation law calls for that every French citizen has the legal right to 10 shares in each company. The privatisation law also is reserving 10 per cent of the shares to be sold to the companies employees, while another 5-10 per cent will be retained by companies to provide loyalty bonuses for shareholders maintaining their holdings for a set period. Foreigners share cannot exceed 20 per cent.

The privatisation law allows for up to 50 per cent of the purchase price of shares to be tendered in the form of government bonds, many of which were initially issued to finance the Mitterrand government nationalisation drive of 1982.

Historically, the French interest in stock market does not parallel

that of other industrialised countries. That is causing concern to some observers regarding the ability to absorb intended public share offerings. For example, compared to the United States and Britain, where in those countries the total market capitalisation represents around 50 per cent, and 65 per cent of their respective GDP, the total market capitalisation in France is little over 10 per cent.

However, the picture has been changing over the last few years. Savings has been channelled more towards equities, and less towards savings accounts. The financial market is getting more sophisticated. New financial instruments are introduced, and new markets such as the *Marche a Terme d'Instruments Financiers* (MATIF) — a financial future markets — are established. The practices in the French financial markets, once called Napoleonic are deemed to change. A deregulated financial market, will bring about the innovation, and the sophistication required to attract investors: domestic and international. The increasing role of institutional investors (Pension funds, insurance companies, trusts, etc.), will also make room for new equities, and they need not flood the market.

The chairman of Credit Lyonnais, one of the major banks on the denationalisation list rightly identifies the conditions needed to guarantee successful privatisation: Companies providing attractive investment possibilities and having healthy balance sheets, large and active capital market that is capable of handling large equity offerings, and of maintaining social balance. Above all, a strong French economy that alleviates the fears of domestic and international investors, is a prerequisite for successful privatisation.

The French privatisation experiment is undoubtedly a fascinating one. From it, a lot could be learned in Jordan. Replacing ideology by economic rationality is on a rising curve. France is riding the curve, so is Jamaica. The two extremes of wealth and poverty agree on that markets do it better than committees. Francois Mitterrand Socialist ideology did not work in France, nor did Michael Manley leftist policies in Jamaica. While the incumbent Mitterrand is learning from his errors, and is losing heart to policies that do not work, the opposition leader Michael Manley is still trying to play the role of a twentieth century Don Quixote!

U.S. helpless onlooker, stumbling giant in face of hijacks

By Christopher Hanson
Reuters

WASHINGTON — The presidencies of Ronald Reagan and Jimmy Carter came to grief over hostage crises and President Gerald Ford's bid to rescue U.S. merchant seamen seized by radical Kampuchians was condemned as inept.

The difficulties of three successive administrations have led counter-terror experts to ask: What effective steps can a president take when U.S. citizens are seized abroad?

Their answers are anything but reassuring.

Despite America's vast armed might, it often turns out to be a helpless onlooker or a stumbling, flailing giant when faced with the acts of small, dedicated terror groups.

"There is very little you can really do," Robert Hunter, a Carter foreign policy aide; told

Reuters in a comment echoed by many other analysts.

Reagan's secret sale of arms to Iran — a bid, according to the administration, to win release of U.S. hostages held in Lebanon — was exposed late last year, helping to spark his greatest political crisis and a sharp drop in his popularity.

Carter's presidency foundered due to an agonising hostage crisis in which 52 Americans were held in Iran for 444 days — despite efforts to negotiate, apply economic pressure on Iran and launch a military rescue mission. Many regard the disastrous failure of the rescue bid as Carter's undoing.

When Kampuchians seized the U.S. merchant ship Mayaguez in 1975, taking the crew of 39 hostage, Ford took personal charge of a hastily organised rescue effort. U.S. marines assaulted an island where the hostages were believed held — after they had, in fact, been released unharmed

elsewhere. Thirty-eight would-be rescuers died in the ill-fated operation.

The crises of the three presidents were different in many respects but they had certain things in common, analysts say:

— Great public and political pressure was focused on the president for decisive action to secure the hostages' release.

— That pressure was increased by intense news media coverage of each hostage episode.

— The White House itself raised expectations of what it could accomplish through public statements which heightened the significance of each episode, stoking calls for action.

Ford immediately declared the Mayaguez affair a serious crisis, raising public expectations of a military response which, when it came, underscored U.S. military ineptitude rather than power, according to critics.

Carter initially treated the Iran

hostage affair as a grave crisis and later found himself unable to reduce it to an issue of secondary status. As a result, he was saddled with an image of weakness.

Reagan, who entered office in 1981 on the day the hostages were finally freed in Iran, vowed "swift and sure retribution" against similar acts of terrorism. He said he would never make concessions to terrorists and would bring them to justice, using military force as required.

But despite his rhetoric, when a series of Americans were seized in Lebanon, he entered upon his ill-fated arms deal.

Three Americans were released as the arms shipments went ahead, but the pitfalls of his policy became evident when six other Americans were seized and the whole affair was leaked to the news media last November, badly tarnishing the Reagan administration's image at home and abroad.

Before the Iran deal came to light, U.S. bombers attacked what Washington said were "terrorist targets" in Libya. Reagan drew praise in some quarters for adding steel to his anti-terror rhetoric, but critics said the attacks actually pointed up the limits of U.S. power.

Libya was a relatively weak target, according to Robert Kupperman, a former White House counter-terror advisor. Syria and Iran were more heavily involved, critics claim, but attacking them would have risked serious losses.

Ford, Carter, and Reagan each might have achieved better results if he had downplayed his terrorist crisis, according to some foreign policy experts.

Presidents have great power to set the news agenda in Washington, the experts say. If the president seems to be doing all he can for hostages but subdues his rhe-

toric, news media attention — and public pressure on the White House for dramatic, but possibly unwise, action — may be diminished.

In general the correct White House approach, Hunter said, was to "depressurise, not pressurise the situation ... to depreciate the importance of the episode."

Reagan seemed to concede as much last week after four college professors, including three Americans, were kidnapped in Beirut.

The president, stressing that the new hostages had ignored repeated warnings to quit Lebanon, said there was "a limit to what our government can do in a chaotic situation."

The United States has a naval force in the eastern Mediterranean but Pentagon spokesman Robert Sims cautioned reporters against assuming military action was likely.

LETTERS



One of the two Renoir paintings "censored" by custom officials

Medieval censorship

To the Editor:

THE increasing fame of Jordanian artists and painters and the frequency of art and painting exhibitions held in the country would prompt one to believe that paintings and works of art are respected by the concerned authorities and given proper consideration for the value of art. But a recent episode involving a new year calendar brought into the country belies this belief and casts doubt on the guidelines adopted by the officials who are entrusted with the task of ensuring that no pornographic material enters the country. If anything, the recent incident points to a ridiculous situation where the concerned officials could not distinguish between pornographic material and real works of art which are internationally famous for their sheer elegance and presentation of the human body's anatomy.

I was shocked to see at least two renowned paintings by the celebrated French artist Pierre-Auguste Renoir partly blotched out by ink in the calendar in question. The calendar is dedicated to Renoir and gives a lengthy description of the artist and his works which are considered some of the best in the 19th century's art history. I enclose herewith one of the paintings, which I was told, was "censored" by the local authorities when it was brought into the country. The painting speaks for itself and I do not think any explanation is needed on this count.

While one could understand the motives behind blotting out posters of films and photographs in magazines with sexual undertones, one fails to understand the logic behind applying the same principle to paintings known for their classic beauty and grace with no hint whatsoever of sex. But at the same time, it is not difficult not to notice the paradox in the situation; calendars and posters with photographs of models wearing bikinis and G-strings slip into the country easily and many a third class cinema houses in the country run X-rated movies apparently with no restrictions whatsoever.

It is time that the concerned authorities educate the officials who handle the issue at their tables on how to distinguish between a pure work of art and something that is pornographic.

Hamzeh Hamzeh
Amman.



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Where home is a dream on the sidewalk

Homelessness is increasing in the conurbations of the U.S. The problem is so acute that many people now dream the American dream on the nation's sidewalks and park benches. David Owen reports from one of the most affected areas.

CHICAGO — "You all should have a commitment to the Union all the time because you don't have a damn thing else to do."

Mr. Henry Nicholas of the Union of Hospital and Health-care Employees pulled no punches in his keynote address to the founding convention of the New York City Union of the Homeless on Manhattan's upper West Side.

His audience, spirits roused by previous resolutions condemning apartheid and urging the transfer of some U.S. military funding to human services, and bellies full after a hot lunch, lapped it up.

As Mr. Nicholas left the podium, the convention hall reverberated with the rallying call "Tomorrow is Today," chanted by hundreds of homeless voices.

Against the current labour union trend, the National Union of the Homeless has expanded rapidly since its foundation in 1984.

From its first chapter in Philadelphia, the union has branched out into eight major U.S. population centres and boasts over 10,000 members.

Its success is largely explained by the fact that the number of homeless people in the U.S. is expanding at an alarming rate. According to a National Coalition for the Homeless survey, the total has increased by 25 per cent in each of the last two years. The Washington-based organisation estimates that up to 3 million people are wandering the streets of America — the equivalent of a city the size of central Chicago.

New York is the worst black-spot with 60,000 to 80,000 on the streets, according to NCH estimates. The figure for Los Angeles is put at 33,000 to 50,000 and Chicago at around 25,000. But the problem is by no means confined to the major cities. Portland, Oregon, is believed to have as many as 7,000 homeless people on its streets and even Burlington, Vermont (population: 37,712), has up to 120.

Among the most worrying features of the recent sharp increase in the homeless population is that an ever-growing range of individuals appear vulnerable to its spread. "These days, it really is indiscriminate in the people it touches," according to Ms. Maria Foscarinis, the NCH's Washington counsel. "A significant proportion of the homeless are employed or suburban dwellers," she adds.

A significant — and particularly fast growing — proportion too are young families with children, a point rammed home forcefully



by Mr. Nicholas, who delivered his New York speech against a backdrop of sullen mothers and bouncing babies.

These families have been especially hard hit by the drastic cuts in federal housing programmes which observers blame, along with high unemployment, welfare cuts and the de-institutionalisation of the mentally ill, for the general swelling of the homeless ranks over the past two years.

"The amount of money going to federally-subsidised housing has been cut by 75 per cent under the Reagan administration," claims Ms. Foscarinis. "There is an extreme scarcity of affordable housing," she adds.

The national picture is epitomised by the situation in Chicago, where previously rundown neighbourhoods have been demolished to make way for luxury residential high-rises. Inevitably, some former inhabitants have been left to wander the streets, as their previously low-cost living quarters have been transformed into \$700-a-month apartments.

The response of local government to the rapidly escalating homeless problem has varied

greatly. Estimated 1986 expenditures on food and shelter range from nothing at all in Houston or Miami to \$15 million-\$18 million in Los Angeles and \$81 million in New York. New York's Mayor, Mr. Edward Koch, is even proposing four new shelters in each of the city's five boroughs, despite fierce opposition from some residents.

But the NUH itself is pushing for less money to be spent on shelters and more on permanent low-income housing and job training. Most homeless people prefer the streets to shelters, according to NUH founder, Mr. Chris Sprowal, a college graduate who found himself homeless in Philadelphia two years ago after his business failed and his marriage broke up. "In the shelters you can get mugged or killed," he said.

In Chicago, the union has taken its protests to luxury apartment blocks on the shores of Lake Michigan, arguing that some of the accommodation should go to low-income individuals since the complexes were part-federally funded. Meanwhile, in Washington DC, protes-

tons recently demanded the right to renovate and live in vacant, boarded-up buildings which, according to local union treasurer Ms. Victoria Luna, "dot the city's landscape."

While such efforts on behalf of the homeless are frequently hampered by lack of political clout, parts of an NCH-sponsored bill called the Homeless Persons Survival Act were passed in the last congressional session. Among the sections approved were a change giving the homeless the right to buy prepared meals with food stamps and a clause specifically prohibiting agencies from using a claimant's lack of fixed abode as an excuse for disallowing benefits.

But such changes, while welcome, attack the symptoms, not the root cause of the problem. Until the homeless can be organised into a coherent unified voice, as they were briefly by Mr. Nicholas' New York address, more and more low-income families and individuals will find themselves dreaming the American dream on the nation's sidewalks and park benches — Financial Times feature.



A destitute site on a New York pavement waiting for a handout. The pathetic sight tells its own story of poverty and degradation.

Liberace, 'Mr. Showmanship,' added sequins to the classics

By John Pine
Reuter

LOS ANGELES — The flamboyant Liberace, who died on Thursday aged 67, put sparkle into the classics and seduced audiences throughout the world with his dazzling smile, rippling keyboard style and outlandish wardrobe.

The man born Wladziu Valentin Liberace in West Allis, Wisconsin, and known to his friends as Lee introduced millions to Beethoven, Mozart and Chopin through his easy-listening medleys.

He prided himself on being able to play any song requested. But it was the glass pianos, the sequins and candelabra and the touch of camp which endeared him to a multitude of undemanding music-lovers.

Audiences went not only to hear his music but also to see him outdo himself with his costumes — furs, feathers, diamond rings shaped like grand pianos and gold lame suits so heavy that he could hardly carry the weight.

Liberace blazed the trail for many younger performers, with Elton John, Elvis Presley and David Bowie just three of dozens of artists who admitted being

inspired by his outrageous wardrobe.

Critics lambasted him for trivialising the classics, calling his act the highest form of camp. But middle-aged and older women loved him. And as for the critics, he once rejoined: "I cried all the way to the bank."

The nightclub act, the concert tours and the recordings earned him an average of \$5 million a year over the last three decades, allowing him to indulge his passion for jewels, lavish homes, antiques, cars and grand pianos. But life was not all sequins and roses for the man known as "Mr. Showmanship," who once drove on stage in a Rolls-Royce.

He tried to keep his own life to himself in his mansions and apartments in Las Vegas, New York, Hollywood, Palm Springs, Malibu and Lake Tahoe, but was forced publicly to deny allegations that he might be homosexual.

In 1959 Liberace, who never married, won a \$22,400 libel judgment against a gossip columnist for the London Daily Mirror who cast doubts about his sexuality by describing him as "the summit of sex — the pinnacle of masculine, feminine and neuter, everything he, she or it



Liberace on stage in Las Vegas can ever want."

He answered the attack with denunciations of homosexuality, saying: "I'm against the practice because it offends society."

More recently, he settled for \$95,000 what remained of a multi-million-dollar "palimony" suit by Scott Thorson, a former dancer who claimed he was promised a salary for life by Liberace in exchange for being entertainer's travel secretary, chauffeur, anim-

al trainer and lover.

His health deteriorated and he was treated in January for acute anaemia — a blood ailment that started, his agent said, when he was on a watermelon diet to lose weight.

Heart disease and advanced emphysema from a life of chain-smoking brought further complications, but his agent vehemently denied a Las Vegas newspaper report that the star had

AIDS (Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome).

Born on May 16, 1919, to an Italian who played the French horn and a Polish mother, he began playing the piano at four, showing early promise as a classical pianist.

But to support the family during the depression of the 30s, he took the name Walter Bosterkeys and worked as a "music hall accompanist" at a local club.

He officially began his show-business career in the middle of World War II. Then, on the advice of the great Polish pianist-patriot Paderewski, he legally dropped his first two names in favour of Liberace.

Soon afterwards, he acquired the candelabra, placed on top of the piano, that became his first trademark.

The gaudy costumes followed, along with an incredible assortment of jewels, lavish furs and a huge collection of antiques, most of which are housed in the Liberace museum in Las Vegas.

He had his own television show in the 1950s, gave royal command performances in London and played for presidents and kings. He also scored as a talented comedian in the 1965 film "The

Loved One."

Success came from what Liberace called "the happiness side of music" — light tunes that pleased a mass audience. Later, he added such gimmicks as stage fountains that rose and fell with the music, pianos covered in glass standing amid thousands of twinkling lights.

Stage experts said the secret of his success was his ability to draw in an audience, as if he were playing to each person.

He last appeared on stage in October at New York's Radio City Music Hall, where during a sold-out engagement, the New York Times reported that he flew across the stage like "a puffed-up Peter pan in 100 pounds of purple and white feathers."

His final public appearances were autograph sessions promoting his new book, "The Wonderful Private World of Liberace," a glossy publication picturing his homes and possessions and his meetings with celebrities, including Presley, Michael Jackson and Pope Pius XII.

But the book told little that was not known about his private life other than a claim that he lost his virginity at the age of 16 to a singer who appeared under the name Miss Bea Haven.

2 young Qataris to retrace medieval Arab explorer

MUSCAT, Oman (AP) — Two young Qataris plan to set out on a marathon trek with camels in the footsteps of the 14th century Arab explorer Ibn Battouta.

Mohammed Ibn Battouta is largely credited for the spread of Islam during the 30 years he travelled all over what is now the Muslim World.

Now 30-year-old Saleh Bin Mohammed Al Shammari and his friend 35-year-old Ayed Bin Amer Al Shammari, both regulars in the Qatari army, plan to retrace these steps from the past.

In the first leg of an odyssey, which could take them well into the next decade, the two camel riders are to set off from the Qatari embassy in Muscat on a six-month trek to Morocco's Atlantic seaport of Tangier, birthplace of Ibn Battouta, Qatari diplomats said.

Later this year the pair will set out again from Muscat, this time crossing Asia to reach Seoul for the opening ceremony of the 1988 Olympic games. The third leg of the journey is to begin in Turkey late next year and would take them on a swinging loop through Europe.

Saleh, talking to a reporter at the Qatari embassy here, described the projected trip as a tribute not only to the memory of Ibn Battouta but also of famed Omani explorer Ahmed Bin Majed. This, he said, is why Oman was chosen as the start of the marathon.

"The objective of the journey is to revive interest in ancient Arab culture and civilisation among young people, against the backdrop of a modern day life of luxury," said Saleh.

In the meantime, preparations were in the final stages for the send-off for which a big fanfare is planned.

The three dromedaries to carry the two men and their provisions are already resting in the Qatari embassy compound in Muscat after being brought by road from Doha, capital of Qatar.

Qatar's heir apparent and defence minister, Sheikh Hamad Bin Khalifa Al Thani, who is chairman of Qatar's supreme council for youth welfare, has provided the camels and additional funding for the trek.

The two men plan to carry as few provisions as possible, hoping

to rely on the traditional generosity of the bedouins they will meet along the way.

Otherwise they will live on a diet of coffee, dates, milk, rice and meat and carry only a tent, a compass and other necessities.

"They are determined to follow as closely as possible the footsteps of Ibn Battouta and other Arab explorers and overcome the problems and difficulties they had to face in spreading Islam," a spokesman at the Qatari embassy told the Associated Press.

The two men plan to travel overnight to save the energy of the camels and protect them from exposure to heat. Saleh said they expect to cover around 80 kilometres per day, following when possible the main highways to prevent them getting lost.

From Oman, the trek will take the men on a pan-Arab swing through the United Arab Emirates, Qatar, cross the newly-built causeway that links Bahrain to mainland Saudi Arabia, on to Kuwait, Iraq, Syria, Jordan, Egypt, Libya, Tunisia and Algeria to Morocco.

Despite skirting the Gulf war zone, Saleh said they did not expect any trouble en route. But they were a little apprehensive about the passage through the Sinai desert in Egypt and the grand desert in Libya because of the "prevailing situation" there, said Saleh.

The embassy spokesman said the main worry was in disturbing unexploded land mines which litter the area. But the two travellers were assured that the bedouins there would ensure them a safe passage, he said.

No date has been set for their arrival in Tangier.

Earlier in the week, the federation of Arab Historians held its bi-annual general assembly in Abu Dhabi and recommended practical efforts to rewrite and "correct misconceptions and falsehoods in the way Western historians had recorded Arab history," the newspaper Al Itihad reported.

The 12,000-member federation agreed to arrange seminars and sponsor journeys by explorers to document and rewrite Arab history, said Abdel Qader Al Najjar, secretary-general of the Baghdad-based federation.

Chile burns 15,000 books

By Malcolm Coad

SANTIAGO — Book-burning, one of the most notorious features of the 1973 military coup, has returned to Chile with the incineration of 15,000 copies of the latest work by the Nobel prizewinner for literature, Gabriel Garcia Marquez.

The interior ministry admitted officially for the first time recently that the books were impounded in November last year in Valparaiso under the state of siege imposed after September's assassination attempt on President Pinochet. Customs documents in the possession of the books' importers show that they were burned on November 28 "in their entirety."

Mr. Garcia Marquez's book, *The Adventure of Miguel Littin* in Chile, recounts the experience of an exiled filmmaker who in 1985 entered the country disguised as a Uruguayan businessman and succeeded in making a long documentary which was shown in European cinemas and on television.

The book was sold publicly in Santiago bookshops last year, and it was serialised in the magazine *Analisis*, which was subsequently banned under the state of siege.

Fifty copies of another book, *Trial of the Left*, by the Venezuelan socialist leader, Teodoro Petkoff, imported for Santiago's annual book fair in December, were also impounded, and most of them burned.

Mr. Arturo Navarro, the Chilean representative for Oveja Negra (Black Sheep), the Colombian publisher from whom Mr. Garcia Marquez's book was imported, said: "We still have no idea why this censorship was carried out, nor who gave the order. Possibly the military decided there was an offence to the armed forces or some other challenge to national security."

Books were burned in the streets by the army after the 1973 coup. Theoretically, book censorship was lifted in June, 1983, but recently secret police raided a printer and impounded books including one by the Christian Democrat leader, Gabriel Valdes — *The Guardian*.

Hollywood recalls glamorous past with 100th birthday party

By John Pine
Reuter

LOS ANGELES — As Hollywood marks its 100th birthday it conjures up an image of a once glamorous film-star fallen on hard times.

For decades the world-famous home of the movie industry, Hollywood has gone from riches to rags.

Male and female prostitutes, drug pushers, the homeless and deranged have dominated night-life along Hollywood Boulevard for the past 20 years, forcing out many businesses. Pornographic filmmakers, book stores and peep shows replaced them.

Only one film studio remains within the vague boundaries of Hollywood, the others displaced by the television and music industries.

But Hollywood has plenty of old friends in the film world, and they are throwing a lengthy birthday party to try to get "Tinseltown" back on its feet.

Community and business leaders hope to rejuvenate the naturally beautiful area with a 20-year redevelopment plan costing nearly a \$1 billion and a year-long "hooray for Hollywood" centennial celebration.

"Our birthday salute to the most famous community in the world will be the most glamorous, glittery celebration ever to honour the birth of a city," said veteran master of ceremonies Johnny Grant, chairman of the salute.

The campaign was kicked off during the half-time show at the football super bowl in January, but official celebrating began on

February 1.

On that date in 1887 land speculator Harold Wilcox from Kansas filed a map of his 120-acre citrus farm which he hoped would become a tidy, prosperous suburb. He registered it as "Hollywood," the name of a friend's summer cottage.

Hundreds of people, including Hollywood legends Bob Hope and Jimmy Stewart, crowded into the refurbished Roosevelt Hotel for the gala party.

There were trumpeters in medieval costume, an ice sculpture replica of the famed Hollywood sign, a giant birthday cake and a plexiglass time capsule into which stars deposited mementos of the legend that is Hollywood.

The festivities began with the unveiling of the 1842nd star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame, given posthumously to actress Natalie Wood, who starred in "West Side Story," "Miracle on 34th Street," "Rebel Without a Cause," and "Splendor in the Grass." She drowned in a boating accident in 1981.

A centennial weekend in June will feature a Hollywood bowl concert honouring comedian Bob Hope and his wife Dolores as "citizens of the century," a "Dancing in the streets" party at the corner of Hollywood and vine, and a "100 famous faces" gala to air as a television special, with fireworks and a laser show at the famous hillside Hollywood Sign.

Other major events will include an old-fashioned Hollywood premiere at the Chinese Theatre in May, celebrity tennis and polo tournaments, a Hollywood-theme game sponsored by the

California lottery and the minting of commemorative coins.

Hollywood's film industry sprang from an unforeseeable coincidence of climate, scenery, robust entrepreneurship and a new technology for mass entertainment.

The Motion Picture Patents Co., trying to enforce a monopoly on cameras, drove fledgling film companies west.

D.W. Griffith led the way by bringing his entourage to make films in Los Angeles in the winter of 1910, when it was too cold and dark in New York. Jesse Lasky and Cecil B. DeMille, put off by the snow-covered mountains in Arizona, continued west to make the first Hollywood feature-length film, "The Squaw Man," in 1913.

Hollywood quickly became not only a piece of geography but the fabled and fabulous symbol of all American filmmaking — a factory town for an art form.

The years before television were the glory days for Hollywood, which has a population estimated at 250,000.

In the glittery nightclubs along Sunset Boulevard, the glamour that Hollywood portrayed on the screen was mirrored by its private life, with Rolls-Royces, Mercedes and Cadillacs clogging the streets.

Even then, the industry was not confined to Hollywood proper. Studios stretched from the San Fernando Valley to Culver City. Hollywood itself had Columbia, Fox-Western, Goldwyn and Paramount, the one that remains.

Behind the starry surfaces, there was always the other Hollywood, the industry hometown

where generations of families have been extras, carpenters, costumers, make-up people, editors and camera operators, living in bungalows below Sunset and in the hill-climbing houses on the twisting streets above.

The advent of daily television broadcasting shortly after World

War II brought revolutionary and often painful changes to the film business. Readjustments continued as other cities and countries lured away producers.

Adapting to shifting economic realities, Hollywood has begun to fight back. The \$922-million redevelopment plan will start soon

with construction of a hotel, an office tower, and shopping centre near the Chinese Theatre.

The Hollywood Chamber of Commerce says economic recovery will drive the prostitutes and drug pushers out of streets, provide jobs and care for the unemployed and homeless.

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Mayotte upsets McEnroe to win U.S. indoor title

PHILADELPHIA, Pennsylvania (R) — Fifth seed Tim Mayotte overpowered fellow American John McEnroe, the fourth seed, 3-6, 6-1, 6-3, 6-1 Sunday to win the \$375,000 U.S. Pro Indoor Tennis Championship.

It was Mayotte's first career victory over McEnroe in six tries and was worth \$67,500. In their previous five meetings, Mayotte had won just two of 13 sets.

After the first set, Mayotte could do no wrong as he blasted back everything McEnroe sent his way and broke the fourth seed's serve twice in each of the last three sets.

"I felt I was on his serve all day. To my eye he is not hitting it as hard as he was when he was playing his best tennis. There were very few games when he held serve easily," said Mayotte.

McEnroe, 27, who received \$33,750 as runnerup, was impressed with Mayotte's performance. "This has got to be the greatest match he has ever played. He was all over me," McEnroe said.

It was an especially sweet triumph for the 26-year-old, who reached the final of this tournament for the first time last year and was forced to give the title to Ivan Lendl because pulled stomach muscles kept him from playing.

"This is a tremendous feeling," said Mayotte. "I was so dis-

appointed from last year because I was playing the best tennis of my career at the time."

Perhaps the turning point of the match came in the sixth game of the third set. McEnroe was up 3-2 and had a break point when he hit what looked to be a perfect backhand passing shot down the line.

McEnroe was sure it was clean winner that he let out a triumphant cheer. But Mayotte lunged out with his racket fully extended and placed a perfect drop shot just over the set as McEnroe watched in disbelief.

"It was an incredible get. When he won that game there was too much momentum to come back from," said McEnroe. "I'm glad I got to the final and if you lose, you like to lose to a guy who is playing his best."

Euro soccer roundup

Napoli trounces Avellino without Maradona's help

LONDON (R) — Napoli preserved its two-point lead at the top of the Italian First Division with a 3-0 defeat of Avellino Sunday but one keen partisan was not entirely pleased.

The Napoli win was achieved without help from its unhappy captain and star striker, Diego Maradona, who was suspended from playing for criticising a referee during a match last month.

"It's not as if it's a great party for me to be a spectator. I suffer too much in the stands," the Argentine World Cup hero said after watching the match at Naples' San Paolo Stadium.

Salvatore Bagni broke the deadlock in the 53rd minute and Andrea Carnevale scored twice more to seal victory for Napoli. Italy's leading sports paper, La Gazzetta, was moved to proclaim in headline: "It was beautiful even without Maradona."

But Napoli was not allowed to slip clear of any of its chief rivals. Internazionale, Juventus, Roma, and Milan all won.

Inter beat bottom club Udinese 2-0, Juventus dumped Empoli 3-0, Roma won 1-0 at Verona and Milan beat Atalanta 2-1, also

away. Inter, with 26 points, remain two points off the pace with Juventus four points behind Napoli. Roma and Milan are locked together another point back.

In the Spanish First Division, Real Madrid cut Barcelona's lead to two points by beating Racing Santander 3-0.

Mexican World Cup striker Hugo Sanchez led the way, his two penalties raising his season's tally to 22.

Barcelona, who beat Real the previous week, fell again on hard times at the cramped Sarria Stadium of city rival Espanol and was held to a 1-1 draw.

Barcelona has now failed to win at the fixture for four seasons. Espanol remains seven points behind the leader.

"We have to be content with one point as we could have played better," Barcelona's coach Terry Venables said.

Spanish Cup holder Real Zaragoza beat Atletico Madrid 1-0. Winger Francisco Pineda's goal not only earned the points but may also have saved the job of coach Luis Costa.

Graf defeats Mandlikova for Newsweek title

INDIAN WELLS, California (AP) — The match of the world's third- and fourth-ranked women tennis players turned out to be a mismatch.

Teenager Steffi Graf, amazing even herself with her dominance, downed flu-weakened Hana Mandlikova 6-0, 6-1 in a 40-minute match Sunday in the finals of the \$100,000 Newsweek Women's Tennis Classic.

"I played unbelievably," said Graf, the 17-year-old West German who's ranked no. 3 in the world. "I was relaxed and felt so good. It was one of my best matches."

Graf dominated every aspect of the match at Grand Champions Resort to easily win the \$40,000 first prize. Mandlikova, who was born in Czechoslovakia, collected \$20,000.

Graf won the first nine games of the match, allowing Mandlikova only nine points in the first set. Mandlikova won just two points on her own serve in the set.

The 24-year-old Mandlikova, who spent most of the week in bed because of the flu, was consistently passed by Graf from the baseline and committed numerous unforced errors.

"I couldn't serve and I couldn't return," Mandlikova said. "I basically couldn't do anything."

Graf's game grew even stronger in the second set. She won her first three service games at love and allowed Mandlikova just 12 points in the set. The only game Mandlikova won came when Graf committed four unforced errors in the fourth game.

"She is still young but she is a great player," Mandlikova said. "She has plenty of years ahead of her."

Jordan to send 3 cars to Qatar Rally

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — For the first time, Jordan will be represented by a national team of three cars in the Feb. 19-20 Qatari leg of the 1987 Middle East Rally Championship.

His Royal Highness Prince Abdullah, the national champion of 1986, will lead the team — two Opel Mantas and one Toyota Corolla — to the event, which is held on the occasion of the anniversary of the accession to power of the ruler of Qatar, Sheikh Khalifa bin Hamad Al Thani.

Apart from Prince Abdullah and his co-driver Amr Bilbeisi, the other two entrants from Jordan are Nabli Karam and his co-driver Ali Bilbeisi, and Issa Halabi and his co-driver Ziad Hamzeh.

Prince Abdullah and the team members as well as the team manager, Suhail Marrar, visited Qatar Feb. 5-8 for a reconnaissance mission over the routes and terrain involved in the 800-kilometre two-day rally. Of the total distance, about 400 kilometres are classified as 27 competitive special stages and 120 kilometres of this distance are to be tackled at night, Marrar told the Jordan Times.

Marrar described the team's visit to Qatar, during which they also practised along the specified route of the rally, as very fruitful. He said senior Qatari officials, including Sheikh Abdullah bin Khalifa Al Thani, head of the Qatari Olympic Committee, Sheikh Mohammad bin Eid Al Thani, general secretary of the higher council for youth, and Ahmad Al Mulla, chief of protocol at the Doha foreign ministry, as well as Sa'id Al Hajri,



The Royal Rally Team headed for the Qatar Rally: (from left to right) Ali Bilbeisi, Nabli Karam, His Royal Highness Prince Abdullah, Amr Bilbeisi, and (in centre middle) Suhail Marrar

several-time Middle East champion and president of the Qatari Motor Sports Club, were among a reception committee that greeted the Jordanian team. The Emir received Prince Abdullah during the visit.

According to Marrar, the competition is expected to be tough in the event since the leading contenders include Hajri, who took the Middle East crown in three successive years since 1983, Mohammad bin Sulayem of the UAE, who is the 1986 champion, Lars Erik Thorpe, who is ranked among the top 20 rally drivers in the world, and Lassi Lambi of Finland, who is rated fourth in the world in Group A cars (with a power of between 140 to 200 horsepower), are competing.

"We expect that Prince Abdullah will finish in the first five winners in the overall race," said Marrar. "Anything above that would be excellent."

As for Group A cars, Mr. Marrar said, he expected Halabi to put up stiff competition to Lambi.

The Feb. 19-20 event in Qatar is the first leg of this year's Middle East Championship. Other events included in the

championship are scheduled to be held in Kuwait (March 19-20), Jordan (April 15-17), Lebanon (Oct. 9-11), Oman (Oct. 28-30) and the United Arab Emirates (Dec. 3-4).

Silk Cut is the main sponsor for the two Opel Manta entries, which are part of the national Royal Rally Team, while Royal Jordanian (RJ) is offering free transportation for vehicles and the entire team — a total of 25 to 30 persons including crew, mechanics and administrators. Halabi is solely sponsored by the national carrier, RJ. In addition, the tyre company Pirelli is contributing 90 specially-built racing tyres to the national team.

Commenting on the terrain involved in the Qatari event, Marrar said most of the routes ran through desert tracks where the vehicles could really pick up speed, especially along the competitive special stages.

In addition to the expected finish of Prince Abdullah among the top five, Marrar expected Halabi to beat Lambi or come second, and the Kingdom to come away with the prize for the best national team.

SPORTS IN BRIEF

West wins NBA All-Star game

SEATTLE (AP) — Tom Chambers won most valuable player honours with 34 points and Rolando Blackman hit two pressure free throws at the end of regulation as the West beat the East 154-149 in the highest scoring All-Star game in National Basketball Association History. Blackman had 29 points for the West, which had lost the previous three overtime games in the 37-year history of the game. Blackman scored four points in overtime Sunday including the opening basket that gave the West the lead to stay at 142-140. Chambers had four points in the overtime for the West, which still trails in the series 24-13.

Britain's Moorhouse sets swim mark

BONN, West Germany (AP) — Swimmers set three world records Sunday for 25-metre pools at the Bonn Arena swim meet. Adrian Moorhouse of Britain set a record in the 100-metre breaststroke, clocking 59.75 seconds. It was the first time a swimmer broke the longstanding one-minute barrier for the 100-metre breaststroke in a 25-metre pool meet. The new marks came on the last day of the three-day meet, one of the largest international events for 25-metre pools.

Poles capture Valencia marathon

VALENCIA, Spain (AP) — Miroslaw Bugaj of Poland won the Marathon of Valencia Sunday with Italy's Bruno Bruera second. Bugaj was timed for the 26.2 miles in two hours, 19 minutes and six seconds with Bruera clocked in 2:20:39. Isidro Martinez of Spain was third in 2:22:46. A total 1,450 athletes took part in the race and 1,162 finished. Ewa Mrozsek of Poland was first in the women's division in 2:46:54, followed by Tania Ball of Britain, 2:52:38, and Dulce Albors of Spain, 3:02:55.

Soviets call for split in Olympics

MOSCOW (R) — The Soviet National Olympic Committee (NOC) has reaffirmed that the Soviet Union wants the 1988 Olympic Games to be split between North Korea and South Korea, the official news agency TASS said. TASS said the Soviet committee made its position clear at a meeting Saturday of its Presidium, or top officials, attended by heads of all national sports federations and representatives to international sports federations. The NOC has also expressed the hope that the International Olympic Committee (IOC) would be able to settle problems between North Korea and South Korea in meetings to be held shortly, TASS said.

Kasparov, other grandmasters, seek to reform chess

By Raf Casert The Associated Press

BRUSSELS, Belgium — World champion Garry Kasparov is leading a groundswell of opposition against chess's ruling body in an effort to give top players more influence in running the game.

The 23-year-old Soviet is spearheading a movement to wrest some power from the Switzerland-based World Chess Federation — known by its French acronym FIDE — and create an independent association of grandmasters.

The aim is to end the stuffy image of chess, make it more of a spectator sport and boost players' salaries.

FIDE organizes individual and team world championships and sets the rules for chess. Its 124 member countries have an equal say in running the organization. But the players have little influence.

"I have seldom seen a sport where this is possible," said Bessel Kok, organizer of the Swift Tournament in April that will bring together Kasparov, Anatoly Karpov, Victor Korchnoi and other top players.

"The opinions of the grandmasters mean nothing" to FIDE, Kasparov said in a recent interview with the Associated Press in Brussels. "FIDE makes the decisions, and we must play according to its rules. We have to give the game back to the players."

He said plans are to form a players association next month that would run a global Grand Prix chess circuit, possibly under the direction of Kasparov's manager, Andrew Page. Page said sponsors are being sought to provide the estimated \$3 million in financing.

FIDE General Secretary Lim Kok An said the organization does not oppose a Grand Prix "in principle" but declined to elaborate.

Kasparov's wish for an independent players group stems

from his frustration with FIDE and its Filipino president, Florencio Campomanes. He is not alone in claiming that Campomanes rules chess like an autocrat.

"A majority of players feel FIDE does not reflect their wishes," said Korchnoi, a veteran Soviet grandmaster now living in Switzerland. "I like the idea of an (independent) organization."

FIDE officials said Campomanes, recently re-elected to a second four-year term, was unavailable to comment.

Kasparov and Campomanes quarreled publicly when the latter suddenly ended an undecided world title match between Kasparov and his compatriot, Anatoly Karpov, in February 1985.

Karpov has led 5-0, needing a sixth victory for the championship, before Kasparov pulled back within 5-3.

A marathon series of games failed to resolve the match, and Campomanes — citing fatigue by both players — called it a draw.

giving Karpov the title. Kasparov at the time accused Campomanes of interfering to "save his friend, Karpov."

This is not the first time that FIDE has come under fire. When American Bobby Fischer played Boris Spassky for the title in the early 1970s, chess was enjoying an upsurge in popularity. But Fischer, saying he wanted FIDE rules changed, refused to defend the title in 1975 and defaulted.

In a 1985 interview, Kasparov blamed FIDE for Fischer's drop into obscurity, saying the organization did "great injustice" to the American. "In a juster world of chess, we might be able to see Fischer at the chess board again," Kasparov said.

Kasparov and others complain that big chess nations, such as the Soviet Union with 3 million registered players, are at the mercy of those fielding only a handful of competitors.

"FIDE is managed by ignorant people (who) have a majority of votes and nothing else," said Korchnoi. Kasparov added: "Power is divided wrong. Leading nations like my own cannot

do anything." Kasparov told the AP: "We can live without FIDE, but they cannot live without grandmasters. There is a myth of the tremendous power of FIDE, and many grandmasters think they can do nothing against it. I have been fighting (the FIDE hierarchy) for two years now and they could do nothing against me. I am the strongest in the world."

Page said the proposed grandmasters association would try to take over the running of the world championship and set up its own Grand Prix circuit, comprising six tournaments over two years.

Probable sites are Brussels, Seattle and Moscow, Canada, Latin America, New Zealand and Spain also have expressed interest, Page said.

The circuit would offer first-place money of some \$400,000, in addition to prizes for individual tournaments. Kasparov got only \$5,000 for winning the two-week Ohra Tournament in Brussels last month.

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LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midday on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets Monday.

| | | |
|-------------------|---------------|-------------------|
| One sterling | 1.5060/70 | U.S. dollars |
| One U.S. dollar | 1.3347/52 | Canadian dollar |
| | 1.8627/37 | West German marks |
| | 2.1005/15 | Dutch guilders |
| | 1.5715/25 | Swiss francs |
| | 38.48/53 | Belgian francs |
| | 16.990/2040 | French francs |
| | 1324/1325 | Italian lire |
| | 154.35/45 | Japanese yen |
| | 6.5950/6000 | Swedish crowns |
| | 7.1050/1100 | Norwegian crowns |
| | 7.0550/0600 | Danish crowns |
| One ounce of gold | 403.15/403.65 | U.S. dollars |

LONDON STOCK MARKET

LONDON (R) — Share prices came back from Monday's record highs after a bout of profit-taking inspired by the lower opening on Wall Street, dealers said. By 1530 GMT, the FTSE 100 had slipped back to 1,906.7 — 8.3 points above Friday's record close — from a peak of 1,925.2 at 1355 GMT.

Shares had risen earlier in the session on speculation the March 17 U.K. budget would bring substantial income tax cuts, leading to a consumer boom.

News the British Airways share offer was heavily oversubscribed encouraged buyers and helped shares to break record ground earlier in the session, dealers said.

Insurances, which had helped Monday's advance, held onto the earlier gains after a series of weekend press tips and brokers' recommendations. Royal was 22p higher at 959 while Prudential was 36p above Friday's closing at 921.

Banks were also boosted by investment buying ahead of the dividend season with Barclays 10p higher at 569 and Natwest up 15p to 532. Merchant banks were mixed after recent falls with Hill Samuel up 3p to 440 and Kleinwort Benson down 15p to 585.

YOUR DAILY
Horoscope

from the Carroll Righter Institute

FORECAST FOR TUESDAY, FEB. 10, 1987

GENERAL TENDENCIES: It's an excellent day for you to look about your dwelling and become more aware of just what is needed to tone it up so that you are more comfortable there.

ARIES (Mar. 21 to Apr. 19) Have a discussion with kin and you can establish greater harmony. Show affection toward all.

TAURUS (Apr. 20 to May 20) Have a long talk with regular contacts and gain greater efficiency in the future. Be sure to drive carefully.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 21) Study your monetary status well and know the best way to improve it. Take no risks with your reputation.

MOON CHILDREN (June 22 to Jul. 21) Use your own methods in going after what you desire and get the right results.

LEO (Jul. 22 to Aug. 21) Add to your outside activities and gain greater prestige with the public. Get your talents to the attention of bigwigs.

VIRGO (Aug. 22 to Sept. 22) Find more intelligent ways to add to your present activities. Make new allies who can be helpful in the future.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22) A good friend can show you how to become more successful by using some methods he, or she, employs.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21) Make plans to take that trip that will gain you what you most desire. Your intuition is working well now.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) Be sure to keep the promises you have made and make arrangements to improve your credit.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 20) Be less objective with your partners and show more warmth and understanding.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 to Feb. 19) Use more standard methods at your job and don't try to be overly modern at your work.

PISCES (Feb. 20 to Mar. 20) Show your mate and other close ties how important they are to you. Be more affectionate.

IF YOUR CHILD IS BORN TODAY ... he or she will be very much attached to family, home and country, so be sure to encourage this one who will be an exemplary son or daughter. Much ability here for merchandising. Success in this can come quite easily. Make sure to praise your child for work well done.

THE Daily Crossword by L. Miller

ACROSS

- 10 Construction place
- 14 Spin floating
- 15 Crime de la
- 16 Planet Peter
- 17 Robert
- 18 Response to a sneeze
- 20 Broken but not
- 22 Triple crown
- 23 Turn inside out
- 24 It is one
- 25 Kind
- 27 Last
- 31 "Allnight Cowboy" role
- 32 Secular
- 33 Goodbye
- 34 Psychic caller
- 35 More leisure
- 36 Public
- 39 contraction
- 41 Day heaters
- 42 Old-fashioned
- 43 Summary
- 45 Idea
- 47 Letter
- 48 Muff
- 49 Playground
- 50 Ben
- 52 Supporter
- 53 He wrote
- 54 woman
- 57 — side
- 58 Day —
- 59 Critique
- 60 commonly
- 61 Renaissance
- 62 person family
- 63 Stern
- 64 Venetian
- 65 musician
- 66 Being

DOWN

- 1 Eve's son
- 2 Paris building
- 3 Residence
- 4 Record covers
- 5 Flight
- 6 Choose
- 7 Underwater's concern
- 8 Best news
- 9 Court decision
- 10 Occupy
- 11 Bar drink
- 12 Day's song
- 13 Decays
- 14 PW
- 15 Analogue
- 16 Vacuum
- 17 Drivages
- 18 — bird
- 19 Cocotte
- 20 Innate quality
- 21 Useful old
- 22 Slickness
- 23 Layoff
- 24 Toward the
- 25 suffer
- 27 Evaporator
- 28 Prep up
- 29 Party choice
- 30 Booc or
- 31 Bartlett
- 32 Semantics e.g.
- 33 Plutonic
- 34 day —
- 35 Declared
- 36 Sp. river
- 37 Jacob's twin
- 38 brother
- 39 Unaccompanied
- 40 Plutonic
- 41 One —
- 42 Dove sound

Arab chambers of commerce call for plan to expand trade

BAHRAIN (R) — Arab chambers of commerce called for joint strategy to promote and protect inter-Arab trade at a two-day conference just ended in Riyadh, the official Saudi Press Agency (SPA) said Monday.

Delegates from throughout the Arab World stressed the need for economic integration to face the "growing strength of economic blocs, particularly in the industrial world, the wide technological gap and protectionist wave in international trade."

They also urged more customs and tax exemptions to remove obstacles hampering inter-Arab trade and underlined the need to develop Arab transport and communication networks.

EC ministers hold meeting to discuss currency trading

BRUSSELS (R) — European Community (EC) finance ministers met here Monday to discuss currency movements against a background of uncertainty over whether major Western nations would meet soon to try to steady the volatile U.S. dollar.

As the session convened, the American currency opened in Europe Monday at a firmer level, trading as high as 1.8720 West German marks. But it fell back in early afternoon to around 1.8380 marks, well below its London close on Friday of 1.8555.

Belgian Finance Minister Mark Eyskens, who is chairing the routine talks, told reporters before the meeting that he believed the three leading economic powers in the 12-nation bloc — West Germany, France and Britain — favoured holding a meeting of the so-called Group of Five (G-5) Western industrialised nations.

West Germany has until now been widely reported to be sceptical about the value of such a meeting, which would also include the United States and Japan, and its chances of producing an accord to stabilise the dollar.

But West German finance ministry secretary, Mr. Hans Tietmeyer, appeared to confirm Mr. Eyskens' remarks when he told reporters: "It is completely wrong that we're against a G-5 meeting."

He declined to comment, however, when asked if this meant Bonn was actively in favour of such a gathering.

Mr. Eyskens told reporters he believed a meeting essential in the present situation of monetary instability and he would be asking his EC colleagues for their views.

"What is essential is to calm the markets and get monetary stability," he added.

Report warns of continuing economic decline beyond 2000

ARUSHA, Tanzania (OPECNA) — Many developing countries will continue to experience economic decline "up to and beyond the year 2000," unless creditworthiness can be restored, a new report by an ACP-EC expert working group warns.

The joint report for the Africa, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) nations and the European Community (EC) countries urges the international community to "come to terms with its responsibilities" as part of the effort to avert economic decline.

According to the Inter Press Service (IPS) news agency, the report says besides economic

adjustment measures — such as devaluation, reform of agricultural price mechanisms, redirection of national resources — "complementary international action" was required to reverse the "current downward trend."

It points out that the interdependence between economies of the North and South, though stressed continually, has failed "disastrously."

Describing interdependence as "a moral and political obligation, as well as an economic and commercial necessity," the report urges industrialised countries to allow freer market access to ACP products.

Gulf Arab oil ministers appeal for cooperation to stabilise market

ABU DHABI (Agencies) — Saudi Arabia and its partners in the six-nation Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) Monday urged oil consumers and producers inside and outside OPEC to work together to stabilise the world oil market.

At the end of a two-day meeting in Abu Dhabi, the GCC oil ministers stressed their "complete commitment and adherence" to the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries' (OPEC's) Dec. 20 accord to curb output and fix prices at \$18 a barrel.

The GCC groups Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Qatar, the United Arab Emirates, Bahrain and Oman. The first four double as members of OPEC.

The final communiqué stressed that adherence to OPEC's plan underscored the GCC's keenness to preserve market stability.

The communiqué urged the rest of the group's 13 members to continue abiding by the agreement.

The meeting was chaired by United Arab Emirates' (UAE's) Oil Minister Mana Said Oteiba. The UAE is the current GCC leader.

The ministers were briefed by Saudi Oil Minister Hisham Nazer on his recent tour of non-OPEC producing countries, the Soviet Union, Egypt, Norway and Britain.

Sources reported, without elab-

oration, that Sheikh Nazer told the meeting that his contacts in those countries were fruitful. Sheikh Nazer, whose country spearheaded the efforts within OPEC late last year to arrest flagging oil prices, did not secure pledges from Britain to follow OPEC's cutback plans. But the other three countries were cooperative.

The sources, who spoke on condition of anonymity, expected that King Fahd of Saudi Arabia will push for British cooperation during a state visit to London next month.

The OPEC agreement was based on cutting the group's production by 7.25 per cent to 15.8 million barrels a day. It took effect Jan. 1.

Since then, oil prices have risen from \$15-\$16 a barrel to \$17-\$18.

Oman's Oil Minister Saeed Al Shanfari, told the official Emirates News Agency WAM Saturday that his country, which has already cut output by five per cent to support OPEC, was ready for further cooperation to stabilise the market. He did not elaborate.

The six GCC oil ministers met

with UAE President Zayed Ibn Sultan Al Nahayan after the meeting.

The UAE leader reiterated his country's "firm support for OPEC's unity and its policy on production and prices."

Sheikh Zayed stressed the need for cooperation and coordination among the GCC countries within OPEC. He also discussed oil price prospects and plans to forge a unified GCC oil strategy.

Unlike other Gulf producers, the UAE has been exceeding its OPEC quota by about 30 per cent.

The UAE is a federation of seven emirates of which, Abu Dhabi, as leading producer, has repeatedly stressed it will stick to its quota.

But Gulf-based oil industry sources said that Abu Dhabi was also exceeding its quota by 150,000 to 200,000 barrels a day.

The sources said that Oman has complained that while it was ready to help OPEC stabilise prices, the second major oil-producing UAE emirate of Dubai was not abiding by the oil pricing system.

Oman and Dubai crude oil grades are almost similar.

The GCC communiqué said the ministers agreed to prepared rules on "lending" member states crude oil if their exports are interrupted.

This was a clear reference to countries like Kuwait and the UAE whose oil tankers and offshore oil fields have been attacked as the Iran-Iraq war spilled over into the Gulf.

GCC states produce 17.7% of world's total oil output

Meanwhile, a new report said the GCC countries last year produced 17.7 per cent of the world's oil.

The producers were said to have increased their combined crude output to 8.4 million barrels per day from seven million in 1985.

The report, by the London-based Middle East Economic Digest (MEED), said the six Arab states accounted for two-thirds of an estimated 2.2 million barrels per day rise in world oil production during 1986.

Quoting the report, the English language daily Emirates News attributed the increase to heightened demand triggered by the fall in oil prices.

Saudi Arabia's crude output rose from 3.6 million to 4.7 million barrels per day and Kuwait's from 900,000 to 1.2 million, according to the study. Bahrain's production, at 40,000 barrels per day, Qatar's (300,000) and Oman's (500,000) remained unchanged.

Dubai Aluminium Company achieves record performance

ABU DHABI (OPECNA) — The Dubai Aluminium Company (Dubal) produced a record 155,600 tonnes of aluminium last year, representing an increase of 3.3 per cent, or 5,000 tonnes, over 1985, according to the company's annual report.

The report said 1986 was the best of the company's five years of full production with exports being made to 25 countries.

Dubal, which is owned by the government of Dubai emirate, also produces some 21 million gallons of desalinated water per day and about 361 mw of electricity a year.

The report said by importing 73,354 tonnes, or 47 per cent of the 1986 production, the U.S. had become the largest market for the company, replacing Japan which only lifted 35,751 tonnes.

A landmark of the 1986 performance, the report noted, were new orders from Portugal, Belgium, West Germany and Oman.

With an average metal purity of 99.86 per cent, the Dubal aluminium was considered among the finest in the world, the report added.

Sri Lanka likely to receive less foreign aid during 1987

COLOMBO (R) — Sri Lanka may get less foreign aid this year because of the worsening ethnic problem on the island, Finance and Planning Minister Ronnie De Mel said Monday.

He told reporters some donor countries had expressed concern over the situation in the north and east where guerrillas have been fighting for an separate Tamil homeland.

"I feel we would get less aid pledges from the Sri Lanka aid consortium during its annual meeting in June in Paris," Mr. De Mel said.

The 14 countries which formed the group last year pledged \$700 million in assistance to Sri Lanka, up by 23 per cent from the previous year.

Mr. De Mel said the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund (IMF) also had expressed doubt that Sri Lanka could achieve this year's economic targets because of high defence spending.

He said defence expenditure was expected to be higher than the budgeted 10 billion rupees (\$355 million) this year.

Both institutions sent teams to Colombo last year to assess the state of the island's economy.

Sri Lanka is among Third World countries eligible for the structural adjustment facility and the compensatory financing facility offered by the two institutions last year to cope with balance of payments problems.

Pravda publishes draft law on trade reforms in USSR

MOSCOW (R) — The Communist Party newspaper Pravda published a draft law Sunday allowing some Soviet firms a degree of independence from the state.

The draft law, drawn up by a Supreme Soviet (Parliament) commission, gives firms responsibility for their own finances and allows them to select their managers. The managers' appointments would later be confirmed by higher authorities.

The official Soviet News Agency TASS said publication of the

draft law, part of a Krenin drive to revitalise the centrally planned Soviet economy, was aimed at giving it publicity before its adoption by the Supreme Soviet.

According to the draft law, spread over three pages of Pravda, firms will have more freedom to decide how many people to employ in certain fields and how much to pay them.

Firms, which have previously had losses compensated by the state, could be declared bankrupt under the law.

IPDC allocates \$2.27 million for 69 programmes worldwide

PARIS (OPECNA) — The International Programme for the Development of Communication (IPDC) allocated \$2.27 million for 69 projects worldwide.

The IPDC inter-governmental council allocated funds for five inter-regional, 26 regional and 38 national projects.

Almost 32 per cent of the financing was earmarked for Africa, over 30 per cent for Latin America and the Caribbean, more than 17 per cent for Asia and the Pacific and 15 per cent for Arab states.

Funds were also allocated from the IPDC 1987 budget for training, assistance, evaluation and promotion.

Among the projects to be assisted are those for communication, training and career develop-

ment for women in Africa, the Pan African News Agency's editorial training programme, and the African Regional Film and Television Institute.

In Asia and the Pacific, assistance will go to the Pacific Broadcasting, training and development project, and a book publishing training course at the institute of mass communication, University of the Philippines.

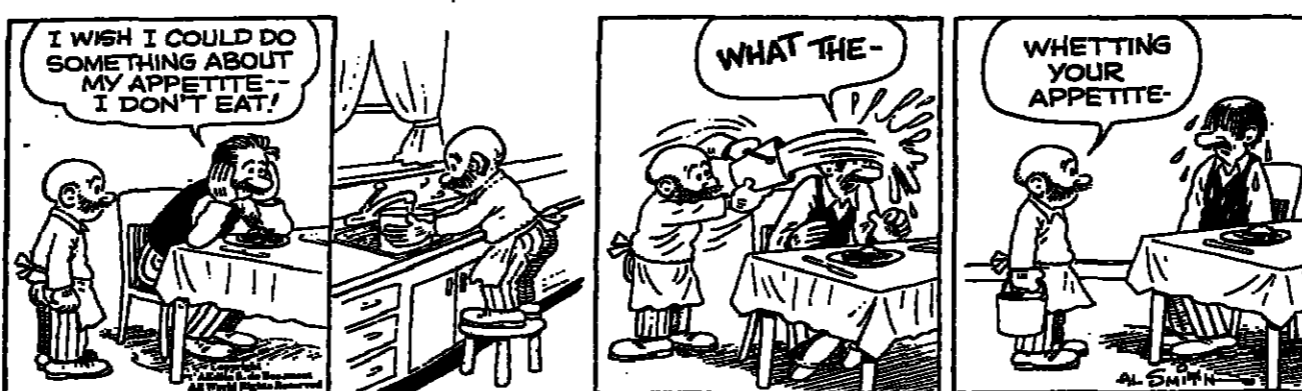
Communication training projects will also be assisted in South Yemen and Sudan.

Six countries announced contributions to IPDC's special account during the eighth session here: Norway (\$1 million), Japan (\$300,000), Soviet Union (\$200,000), India (\$100,000), Nigeria (\$30,000) and Yugoslavia (\$24,280).

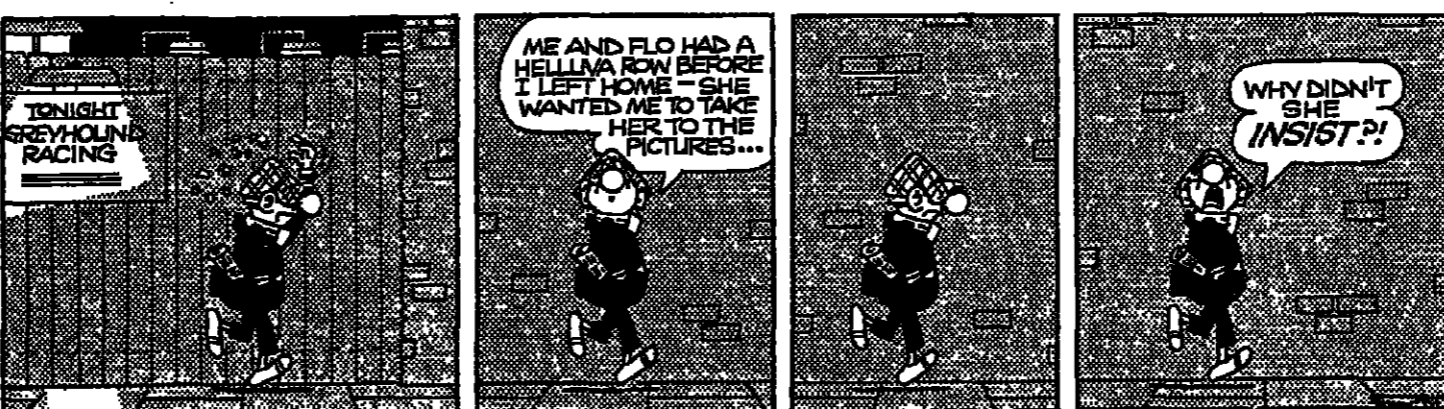
Peanuts



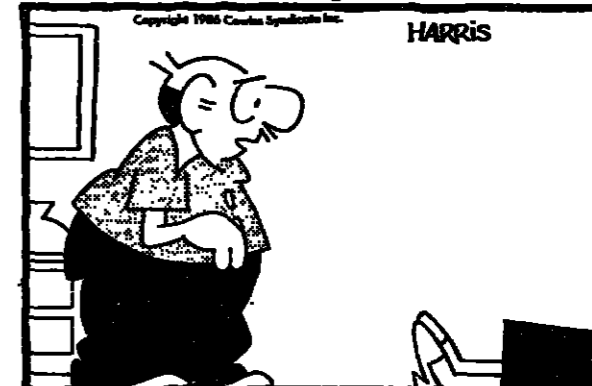
Mutt n' Jeff



Andy Capp



THE BETTER HALF, By Harris



JUMBLE. THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

You've got it all, kid!

URI OC

DEFAM

GAMANE

LEPOAR

SOMETHING A LOT OF WOMEN ARE TAKEN IN BY.

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Print answer here:

(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: LIMIT BATON PUSHER TOTTER

Answer: What the sugar tycoon got as he was trying to propose marriage — A LUMP IN HIS THROAT

Filipino guerrillas kill 5 in first post-ceasefire attack

Manila opens peace talks with Muslim rebels

MANILA (R) — Communist rebels killed five civilians Monday in the first violence after a 60-day ceasefire, while troops were ordered to strike at guerrillas who launched pre-emptive attacks before the truce ended Sunday.

A military spokesman said the Communist New People's Army (NPA) killed five civilians in the southern province of Davao Del Sur in a dawn attack. He gave no other details.

Armed Forces Chief General Fidel Ramos said troops were in pursuit of rebels who killed five soldiers and wounded five others in an attack in the northern province of Kalinga-Apayao and others who attacked two farms in the south on Friday.

Gen. Ramos said that the armed forces would go after "extremists" — from both the left and the right of the political spectrum — who persist in violating the law.

The National Democratic Front (NDF), the rebels' political arm, rejected appeals by President Corazon Aquino's government to extend the ceasefire and resume negotiations aimed at finding a permanent solution to the 17-year insurgency.

"We will do what we have to do if the extremists in the country persist in violating the law and we will conduct our operation firmly and with consistency," Gen. Ramos said.

He told soldiers at the opening of a military training centre west of Manila that the extreme left, which consists of the NDF, the NPA and the Communist Party and their front organisations,

uses violence to seize power.

On the extreme right, he said, were certain groups who use money and their own private army "to entrench and perpetuate themselves in positions of influence to gain economic advantage." Gen. Ramos did not identify the groups.

He said the military was at the centre of all sectors of society and was "the stabilising influence for our government and our people during these very critical times."

Gen. Ramos said voters' approval of a new constitution last week reflected the people's rejection of these extremist forces.

"To all extremist elements who refuse to join the mainstream of society, we have no recourse but to use the authority given to us legally under the constitution and existing laws to protect our community and provide safety to the public," he said.

The government opened talks Monday with Muslim rebels on possible self-rule for the southern Philippines in a bid to end a 14-year-old separatist revolt.

Mrs. Aquino launched her latest peace bid a day after the end of a 60-day ceasefire with Communist rebels.

A military spokesman told Reuters the armed forces would honour safe-conduct passes issued to Communist peace negotiators and members of regional ceasefire committees for a further 30 days.

The absence of one Muslim rebel group at the negotiations on autonomy for Mindanao and surrounding islands appeared to dampen hopes of a quick resolution to the conflict there, but government and rebel envoys said they hoped the talks would end the insurgency.

Both sides agreed to resume discussions on Feb. 20.

Sikh extremists kill police officer, son

NEW DELHI (R) — Sikh extremists have shot dead a police officer and his son in Punjab and a woman died of bullet wounds Monday as the north Indian state's chief minister remained at odds with the high priests of his faith.

A police spokesman in the state capital, Chandigarh, told Reuters that gunmen entered the home of deputy superintendent Harpal Singh at Rayra, near the Sikh holy city of Amritsar, and killed the officer and his son.

Gurdev Kaur, niece of a famous figure in India's independence struggle, Bhagat Singh, died Monday of wounds sustained on Saturday when extremists attacked her family in a village near Ludhiana City, the spokesman said.

Kaur's father-in-law was killed in the attack and her mother was seriously injured, he added.

The three were all Sikhs and their deaths raised to 22 the toll in Sikh extremist violence in the state this month. The extremists are fighting for an independent Sikh state in Punjab.

The killings briefly turned attention away from Punjab Chief Minister Surjit Singh Barnala, who is struggling to save his state government after the Sikh faith's five high priests ordered

him to resign from the ruling party on Sunday.

Mr. Barnala told reporters in Chandigarh Sunday night that his government and party were intact even as the priests announced from Amritsar that all factions of Punjab's ruling Akali Dal had ceased to exist.

Mr. Barnala heads the Akali Dal Party, which has ruled the troubled state since September 1985.

It is the second time in a week that Mr. Barnala has defied an order of the priests, who sit in a complex housing the Sikhs' holiest shrine, The Golden Temple. Their edicts carry the force of law in religious and secular matters for all Sikhs.

The chief minister now faces possible excommunication from the faith as punishment.

The priests, in a bid to reunite the party, have ordered all the factions to be dissolved and regrouped under a new unified Akali Dal to be headed by a jailed Sikh militant and led by a committee drawn from anti-Barnala factions.

About 30 party officials and some state assembly members resigned over the weekend but Mr. Barnala's main supporters rejected the priests' call.

8 Sri Lankans killed in clash with rebels

COLOMBO (R) — Sri Lankan commandos prepared to arm Sinhalese and Muslim villagers in defence against Tamil separatist attacks as at least eight people were killed in clashes with rebels in the North, the government said Monday.

The government media centre said a patrol fired at a group of rebels, killing six and wounding many others Sunday night in Mammur district in the north.

A mortar bomb splinter killed a security force member and wounded five others, it said.

Security forces, in pursuit of guerrillas whom the government said killed 37 villagers in the past week, clashed with rebels Sunday in the jungles near Aranthalam in the east. One soldier was killed, the centre said.

A government spokesman told Reuters 300 police commandos trained in anti-guerrilla warfare have been sent to Sinhalese and

Muslim villages in the east as part of a 5,000-member force to be deployed in the next few days.

"These commandos have gone to the isolated villages to protect the civilians there," he said.

He said they would be pulled out after they have trained 10 men in each village and given firearms to protect civilians from rebel attacks.

The initial three-week training begins Tuesday in some villages and would be supplemented by a retraining six months later, he said.

The commandos were sent to the villages shortly after rebels fighting for an independent homeland for minority Tamils shot dead nine villagers and injured 14 others on Feb. 4 in Mannthottam in the eastern district of Amparar and killed 23 others, including 10 children three days later in Aranthalam, the government said.

Everything up for election in Gorbachev reforms — Falin

BONN (R) — Soviet Leader Mikhail Gorbachev's internal reforms constitute a revolution which will mean elections for all important offices, possibly including the Communist Party Central Committee, a senior Soviet official was quoted Monday as saying.

"We don't want democracy to exist as a mere slogan, a label. It must be visible," Valentin Falin, head of the Novosti Press Agency, told the West German daily Die Welt in an interview released ahead of publication on Tuesday.

"What is happening with us is a revolution, in its depth, its quality and also in its consequences," he added.

"It could be that the transformation in thinking and behaviour will take until 1990, before quantity transforms into quality. Perhaps longer. One needs time to raise the younger generation to leading positions."

"In future, everything will be by election — directors of factories, heads of department, leaders of brigades, directors of institutes and the first secretaries of regional party organisations," Mr. Falin was quoted as saying.

"The logic of Gorbachev's policy would not contradict a secret ballot for the Central Committee secretaries," he added.

Asked if Gorbachev were not over-reaching himself, Mr. Falin said: "In one sense there is such a danger. Mr. Gorbachev works too hard. I don't know how long a man can go on working 16 hours a day, practically without a day off. That is a problem."

But he said that as far as his policy was concerned, there was no danger because it had broad support.

Mr. Falin said the quality of Soviet political leadership and the level of thinking had declined after the death of Lenin. "We sought the easiest solutions, not the best."

"Socialism cannot mean keeping the masses distant from the decision process. It requires direct and active participation."

Asked if this meant an amnesty for political prisoners and dissidents, Mr. Falin denied Soviet citizens could be prosecuted for expressing opinions but added: "I assume that more democracy, openness, more criticism will bring a more generous legal framework. With us, everything is being considered, including the relationship to those people who have behaved wrongly."

Amnesty says Peruvian troops massacred prisoners

LONDON (AP) — Amnesty International said Monday it has evidence that Peruvian security forces tortured and killed some of the inmates who surrendered after prison riots in June.

The troops blew up a cellblock after an uprising at the El Fronton Island Prison and claimed inmates were buried in the rubble.

But Amnesty International said about 90 imprisoned left-wing guerrillas already had surrendered. Some were killed; others were taken into "secret custody," Amnesty said.

"What happened to them afterwards is known only to the authorities," said a report by London-based human-rights group, which won a Nobel Peace Prize for its work on behalf of political prisoners around the world.

The Amnesty charges were in a 64-page report on simultaneous revolts June 18-19 at El Fronton and two other Peruvian jails, Lurigancho and Santa Barbara, by imprisoned guerrillas of the Maoist-inspired Shining Path

guerrilla movement.

"Amnesty International has concluded... There has since been a deliberate cover-up by both the civilian and the military authorities of gross human-rights violations that occurred at the time and may still be continuing," the report said.

The bloody revolts, in which the prisoners took hostages and fought a 20-hour battle at El Fronton with security forces, attracted international attention.

At Lurigancho, all 124 inmates were killed; two inmates died at Santa Barbara.

Amnesty said Peruvian President Alan Garcia imposed secrecy over the El Fronton events after it emerged that security forces had shot to death at least 100 Lurigancho inmates who had surrendered. The government initially claimed all were killed in battles during the armed revolt.

Authorities said all but 35 of the 154 to 170 inmates in the two-storey blue pavilion cellblock at El Fronton were buried in the rubble.

COLUMNS 7 & 8

Man attacked by wolves

AMMAN (J.T.) — A pack of hungry wolves have attacked a 49-year-old man from Safawi area, formerly known as H5, and injured him in his left hand, a report in the Arabic daily Sawt Al Shaab said on Monday. Ftewi Aguil Hussein, was lucky to survive, when a group of men hurried to save him from the hungry wolves, which ran away leaving him bleeding. Mr. Hussein was then rushed to the hospital for treatment for his injury.

Cougar hides on RJ jet

AMMAN (J.T.) — Royal Jordanian has made headlines in major Chicago newspapers and on U.S. TV stations, when a 20 week old cougar escaped from its crate while being transferred from an air cargo depot at Chicago's O'Hare International Airport to a Royal Jordanian jet bound for Qatar, Royal Jordanian News reported in its issue of Feb. 5. Airport officials reported that the cougar broke loose when the top of his crate accidentally opened. "But rumour has it that the cougar became very upset and ran away when our flight attendant told him that he could select his meal only from the food list and not the passenger list," Royal Jordanian News said.

2-headed baby born in S. Arabia

BAHRAIN (R) — A Saudi mother has given birth to a boy with two heads, two necks and two backbones, a hospital official has said. Abdullah Ali Al Samman, director of King Khalid Hospital, in Majma, north of Riyadh, told Reuters the infant is in an incubator and his chances of living were almost nil.

Family overpowers intruder

LONDON (AP) — A family held hostage in their London home by a wanted man fought back to win their freedom and put the intruder in hospital with severe injuries, police said. The attacker in hospital with severe injuries, police said. The intruder, who was sought for questioning in a murder inquiry, broke into the Ward family home in Sydenham, South East London, said Detective Superintendent David Parkinson. He said the man tied up David Ward, a 42-year-old carpet fitter, and herded his wife Carol and their four children, aged 16 to 16, and Mrs. Ward ran into the street as police arrived and the intruder, covered in blood, was arrested and taken to Lewisham Hospital, Parkinson said. The man was "seriously ill," while the family had been treated for shock, cuts and bruises and sent home, a hospital spokesman said.

Gone With the Wind sequel planned

NEW YORK (AP) — At long last, we may find out if Rhett Butler learned to give a damn, and if Scarlett O'Hara ever succeeded in getting him back. The estate of Margaret Mitchell, the author of "Gone With the Wind," has hired a New York agent to find someone to write a sequel to the romantic novel of the civil war era in the southern state of Georgia, the New York Daily News reported. The novel became the basis for the enormously popular film starring Vivian Leigh as Scarlett O'Hara and Clark Gable as Rhett Butler. The attorney for the Mitchell estate, T. Hal Clarke, told the Daily News the book could be published as soon as next year, and the film could be in the theatres soon thereafter. Mitchell, who died in 1949, 10 years after the screen version of her novel was released, left a will that barred a sequel to her only book, which sold 25 million copies. But her brother, Stephens Mitchell, feared publication of unauthorised sequels when the copyright for Gone With the Wind expires in 2011. He approved a sequel before he died in 1983. The estate has hired the William Morris Agency to search for the right novelist to continue the famous story, the news reported.

Televised salvaging of Titanic planned

BOSTON (AP) — Hollywood is teaming up with French scientists and a Texas oil man to gather artifacts from the Titanic and open three safes on television. "It's a great adventure," said John Joslyn, president of Westgate Group, which plans to broadcast the expedition this summer from 12,000 feet (3,660 metres) down. Westgate produced last year's syndicated show in which the purported vaults of gangster Al Capone were opened on TV. The vaults contained only two empty bottles and an old sign. The Titanic expedition, detailed last week, prompted scepticism from historians and raised technical questions about legal rights to the wreck. The Woods Hole Oceanographic Institute has also objected. The institute helped find the wreck in 1985 and examined it with a camera-toting robot last year without taking any artifacts from the liner. "We feel the Titanic is the resting site for the people who perished, and it's our desire to see it left untouched," said Woods Hole spokeswoman Anne Rabushka. More than 1,500 people died in the sinking of the Titanic in 1912. The project calls for a miniature submarine to scoop up plates, wine bottles and other items from the ocean floor in 10 dives, said Jack Grimm, founder of Grimm Oil Co. of Abilene, Texas, and backer of the \$3-million expedition.

Change sex attitudes to halt AIDS

VATICAN CITY (R) — A change in sexual behaviour, not the free distribution of contraceptives, is needed to combat the spread of AIDS, the Vatican newspaper Osservatore Romano has said. The semi-official daily said society had reached a point of "tragicomic exaggeration" in believing that free condoms would ensure it could continue to behave in the same sexually free way. It said simple common sense showed such reasoning to be superficial and absurd. AIDS was known to be spread by a certain type of behaviour, the paper said. "The only... reasonable decision is to stop that sort of behaviour," it added. The Italian government recently decided to distribute free contraceptive sheaths to servicemen in an attempt to prevent the spread of AIDS. The Roman Catholic Church condemns artificial forms of birth control. The paper said the church's affirmation that there was a "wrong and very foolish" attitude to sex did not arise from the discovery of AIDS, which breaks down the body's resistance to infection and is often transmitted sexually. "The church will not stop saying it when, as we all hope, this disease stops spreading," it said.

New York passes no-smoking rule

NEW YORK (AP) — The state Public Health Council has passed a regulation severely restricting smoking in public spaces such as restaurants, schools and the workplace. Off-limits to smokers would be common-use areas of all workplaces — any office, restroom, hallway or meeting room. Employers could decide individually whether to create a special area for smokers. Smoking also would be forbidden to taxis and limousines and establishments including food markets, banks and courthouses. Large restaurants, hospitals and bowling alleys would be required to set aside non-smoking areas. "There is a growing medical consensus and accumulating scientific evidence that non-smokers indoors suffer harm from ambient smoke," said council Chairman Morton Hyman. The tobacco industry lobbied against the restrictions, saying evidence about the dangers of second-hand smoke was inconclusive and smoking restrictions would be costly for businesses. Not included in the regulation passed Friday would be tobacco stores, convention halls, restaurants with fewer than 50 seats, and bars.

Contra donor reports meeting with North

WASHINGTON (AP) — Lt. Col. Oliver North met on several occasions with a wealthy woman who was the principal benefactor of a political group involved in a lobbying drive for the Nicaraguan rebels, the woman acknowledged.

Barbara Newington of Greenwich, Connecticut, helped bankroll a Virginia-based political action committee headed by her friend, Washington fund raiser Carl "Spitz" Channell, public records show.

Her role suggests a close link between Col. North, the fired White House aide, and Channell's efforts to conduct a nationwide media campaign in support of President Ronald Reagan's pro-contra policies.

Public documents indicate Mrs. Newington donated nearly half the \$700,000 raised by Channell's group, which helped pay for that public relations blitz.

Channell used a network of

conservative groups he controls to help fund speaking tours by Nicaraguan rebels, and broadcast at least \$11 million worth of television ads that targeted congressional opponents of the president's \$100 million aid proposal for the contra fighting Nicaragua's leftist government.

The source of his funding has come under scrutiny by congressional and federal investigators. They are probing reports that Col. North provided money for the campaign from profits diverted from U.S. arms sales to Iran.

Channell has denied that Iranian money was used in the media effort or that Col. North solicited contributions. But she acknowledges Col. North spoke to groups of his contributors and provided written material used for the television commercials.

Mrs. Newington refused in an interview to discuss her finances.

China warns of chaos if socialism abandoned

PEKING (R) — China Monday revived a warning by Deng Xiaoping that chaos, division and darkness would follow if the country abandoned socialism.

The official Peking Review reprinted a speech by the Chinese leader in March 1979 in which he said Communist Party leadership was vital for the nation and attacked "bourgeois liberalism" — the term used to denounce Western ideas of freedom and democracy which were blamed for causing student unrest last December.

A campaign against "bourgeois liberalism" led to the removal of party chief Hu Yaobang and the expulsion of three intellectuals from the party.

Mr. Deng said abandoning socialism and talking about democracy in the abstract would inevitably lead to the unchecked spread of "ultra-democracy and anarchy," the complete disruption of political stability and unity and the total failure of China's modernisation programme.

"If this happens, China will once again be plunged into chaos, division, retrogression and darkness and the Chinese people will be deprived of all hope," he said.

He said that after the Communist takeover in 1949, China greatly narrowed the gap in economic development between it and the advanced capitalist countries.

Aides differ over SDI impact on ABM pact

WASHINGTON (AP) — Secretary of State George Shultz says key elements of the "Star Wars" programme need to be tested.

His remarks indicated a further tilt by President Ronald Reagan's administration toward a broad interpretation of the 1972 anti-ballistic missile (ABM) treaty regarding the space-based missile defence system.

Mr. Shultz defended the broad interpretation Sunday on the ABC television network programme. He differed with Secretary of Defence Caspar Weinberger on when to make the deployment decision on Star Wars, formally known as the Strategic Defence Initiative (SDI).

"The programme itself has been designed given the restrictions in what's called the narrow interpretation, and the programme's made a lot of progress," Mr. Shultz said of SDI.

"But it is clear enough, given the progress that has been made, that you'd be able to pursue the programme much more effectively and perhaps only if a different pattern of testing is permitted," he said, arguing for the broad interpretation.

Under a strict interpretation, the ABM treaty forbids either side from developing defensive systems or testing them before deployment. A broad interpretation would allow some testing.

When Mr. Reagan announced the SDI programme four years ago, he said it should be a research effort aimed at developing futuristic defences against nuclear attack. Proponents of the programme said the earliest date for deploying any system would be late in the 1990s.

Mr. Weinberger repeated his position that "I want to deploy it. I believe the president wants to deploy, just as soon as we can."

The 1972 pact bars either the Soviet Union or the United States from basing anti-missile defences in space. But it allows each side to have up to 100 ABM missiles around the national capital or a missile site. While the Soviets have land-based system around Moscow, the United States has none.

Mr. Weinberger said that if position that "I want to deploy it. I believe the president wants to deploy, just as soon as we can."

He said through an interpreter that the Geneva talks could achieve success "if common sense prevailed in Pakistan," but he charged that the United States was "exerting pressure for the continuing of tension."

Mr. Kishmand said that if foreign intervention — the government's term for aid to the Mujahadeen — ceased, the Afghan army would be able to ensure security in the country even after the withdrawal of Soviet forces.

He denied rebel reports that up to 10,000 Afghan and Soviet troops were advancing on guerrilla strongholds near the south eastern city of Khosht.

Saying Afghan troops had merely responded to guerrilla attacks, he said: "There was no question of movement of forces. It was just an act of the forces which were there."

Soviet troops had not been involved, he said, adding that military activity by government forces had almost ceased.

Mr. Kishmand blamed supporters of the Pakistan-based guerrilla leaders for a car bomb explosion which killed at least four people near the Indian embassy in Kabul on Feb. 1.

No-one has so far been arrested in the case, he said.

Asked whether a new constitution now being drafted would permit other political parties in addition to the currently ruling People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan (PDPA), Mr. Kishmand said: "We have not ruled out other parties."

Mr. Kishmand, an experi-

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN
AND GOREN BRIDGE
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ANSWERS TO WEEKLY BRIDGE QUIZ

- Q.1—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠A89 ♠82 ♣AQ104 ♣KQJ
The bidding has proceeded:
South West North East
1 ♣ Pass 1 ♣ Pass
What do you bid now?
A.—Obviously, it is simply a matter of whether you bid two no trump or not. We do not believe in bypassing a good four-card major in favor of jumping in no trump. That runs very little risk. If partner is so weak that he passes one spade, your chances for game at no trump are slight.
- Q.2—As South, vulnerable, you hold:
♠A95 ♠KQJ82 ♣6763
The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West
1 ♣ Pass 1 ♣ Pass
2 ♣ Pass ?
What do you bid now?
A.—The auction is developing quite nicely for you. However, there is no need to go jumping around just yet. A bid of two spades is not only forcing but shows a good hand, since it is a reverse. Partner's next bid will help clarify where you want to play the hand—three no trump is still a possibility.
- Q.3—Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠1094 ♠983 ♣K6 ♠A72
The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West
1 ♣ Dble ?
What action do you take?
A.—[Unless you have some method of showing a limit raise of partner's suit after the enemy interposes a takeout double, the only sensible bid you have is to redouble. When you next support partner's suit, he will realize that you have this type of hand.
- Q.4—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠A89 ♠82 ♣AQ104 ♣KQJ
The bidding has proceeded:
South West North East
1 ♣ Pass 2 NT Pass
3 ♣ Pass 3 NT Pass ?
What action do you take?
A.—You do not want to give up all thoughts of slam, but you cannot make any drastic move. Bid four spades. That confirms your 6-4 distribution and tells partner you don't need much in the way of trump support from him.
- Q.5—As South, vulnerable, you hold:
♠K763 ♠842 ♣72 ♠AJS
North East South West
1 ♣ Pass 2 ♣ Pass
3 ♣ Pass ?
What do you bid now?
A.—Partner is asking you to evaluate your diamond holding for game purposes. With four-card trump support, a doubtless is a reasonably favorable holding. Since you have an ace and a king on the side, we think the hand just merits a raise to four hearts.
- Q.6—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠109 ♠83 ♣87642 ♠QJ63
The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West
1 ♣ Dble ?
What action do you take?
A.—There is a classic way of showing a hand that is worth next-to-nothing, pass. Since that is what you have, that is the action you should take. Don't worry about the possibility that the double will be left in for penalties. That seldom happens and, even if it does, you cannot be sure that one heart is not the best spot.